

EDDMAPS: A COLLABORATIVE, EASY-TO-USE, EARLY DETECTION AND DISTRIBUTION MAPPING SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

EDDMapS – Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (www.eddmaps.org) was designed to provide a more accurate picture of the distribution of invasive species. EDDMapS is being developed, implemented, and coordinated by the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia (www.bugwood.org).

EDDMapS allows land managers, agencies, and others to set priorities for early detection and rapid response (EDRR), as well as formulate overall invasive plant management action plans. It is a tool to develop more complete local, state, and regional level distribution data of invasive species, identify “leading edge” ranges of new invasive threats, provide a means of implementing EDRR, and help corroborate threats and refine invasive species lists and management priorities.

Benefits of EDDMapS:

- Fast and easy to use - no knowledge of GIS required
- Web-based mapping of invasive species distribution helps fill gaps and identify “leading edge” ranges

- Facilitates Early Detection and Rapid Response implementation with online data entry forms, e-mail alerts, and network of expert verifiers
- One database for both local and national data
- Data can be searched, queried, and downloaded in a variety of formats
- Cooperates with and aggregates data from other invasive species mapping projects
- Custom/hosted applications can be quickly and inexpensively developed

EDDMapS has been or is being implemented by the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, and the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse. EDDMapS contains 610,000 county reports and 236,000 point reports on 1,728 species, and it is being employed by more than 1,100 users.