

Florida  
 State Parks

32

**JUNIOR  
 RANGER**

# IDENTIFYING INVASIVES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Park \_\_\_\_\_

Park Rangers work to restore and protect Florida's natural environment by removing invasive exotic plants. These plants take over and destroy habitats, making it hard for native plants to live and grow. Learn about how to identify the more common invasive exotic plants found in Florida below and then discover how identifying invasive exotic plants helps Park Rangers to remove them from our parks.

## Brazilian Pepper



- A shrub or vine up to 30 feet tall with dense, twisting branches
- Clusters of small white flowers emerge in late summer
- Small, bright red berries grow on female plants and ripen by December

## Skunkvine



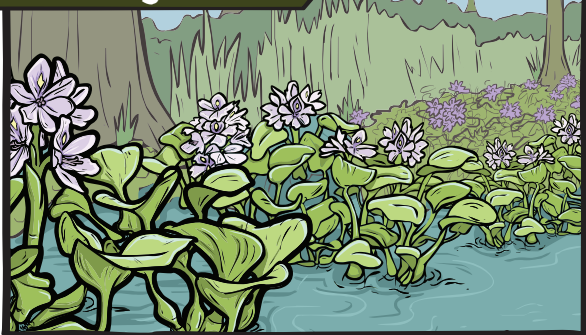
- A woody vine growing to 30 feet in length with small gray to lilac-colored flowers with red centers
- Vines twist to the right and leaves are shaped like elongated hearts
- Berries are small, brown and shiny

## Air Potato



- A vine with heart-shaped leaves up to 8 inches by 8 inches
- Leaves have veins in a radial pattern and are staggered on the stem
- Bulbis (potato-like) growths sprout along stem and range in size from a pea to a softball

## Water Hyacinth



- A floating plant with a central spike of 8-15 lavender flowers
- Flowers have 6 petals and the top petal has a yellow spot
- Round leaves have a bladder (balloon-like structure) which floats on the water's surface



There is more this way!



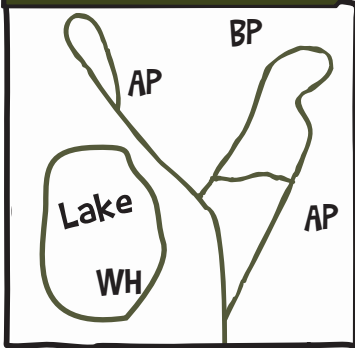
## SERVICE ACTIVITY

# PLANT PULL

Park Rangers map out where invasive plants are growing before removing them. You can help Park Rangers map invasive plants by drawing the trail you are about to hike in the box below. Use a park brochure or trail map to help you.

While hiking, mark any invasive plants you see on your drawing using the abbreviations in the key. An example has been done for you!

### Example Trail Map



### Key



Air Potato = AP



Brazilian Pepper = BP



Skunkvine = SK



Water Hyacinth = WH

Share your drawing with a Park Ranger to help protect our parks from invasive exotic plants!

Invasive exotic plants also grow outside our park boundaries. You can help the native environment in your very own back yard by helping an adult remove these plants! Encourage your friends and family by sharing what you learned about invasive exotic plants in Florida State Parks.



#FLStateParksJrRanger