

# Invasive Species Education Project



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**UA Division of Agriculture**

Arkansas Forest Resources Center

# Introduction

- Background
- Objectives
- Approach
- Impact
- Lessons Learned



UGA1291004

# Overview & Background

- UA, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service
  - Extension includes
    - Landowner, Youth, Public, and Professional Education
    - 2 county agents in each of the 77 counties
    - State specialists based at State Office, Research & Extension Centers, and UAM-School of Forest Resources
- Arkansas Forest Resources Center
  - Integrates teaching, extension, & research
  - Members includes Forestry & Wildlife Extension Faculty



# Continuing Forestry Education

- Registered foresters are required by State Law to complete 8 hours of continuing education a year to maintain their registration.
- Partners include the Arkansas Forestry Commission, the Arkansas Forestry Association, Arkansas Board of Registered Foresters, and the Society of American Foresters.



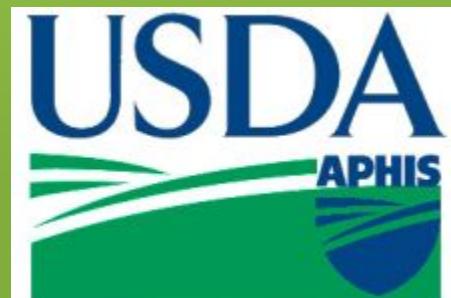
# Program Implementation

- Program designed @ local level
  - County agents, foresters, Society of American Foresters officers, Board members, Extension Foresters
  - Day long conferences
  - Multiple topics
  - **KEY: Provide 8 hrs. CFE's**
- Invasive Species
  - Incorporated into program in 2012



# Invasive Species in AR Forests

- Program Funded by:
  - Arkansas State Plant Board
  - USDA Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- Focus:
  - Education regarding potential invasive species to AR forests
  - Train professionals, MGs, MNs, agents
- Methods:
  - Presentations
  - Website
  - On-line courses
  - State-wide Conference
  - Educational materials



# Website: Arkansasinvasives.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Arkansasinvasives.org website. The header features the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture logo and navigation links for HOME, INVASIVES 101, POTENTIAL INVADERS, ABOUT US, and CONTACT. A search bar and social media links are also present. The main content area includes a large image of a gypsy moth, a 'POTENTIAL INVADERS' section with a description of the gypsy moth, a 'REPORT A SIGHTING' section, an 'INVASIVES IN ARKANSAS' section, and three smaller sections for 'INVASIVES 101', 'POTENTIAL INVADERS', and 'RESOURCES'.

**Arkansasinvasives.org**

**UofA** DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
University of Arkansas System

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

**POTENTIAL INVADERS**

The gypsy moth is one of the most destructive pests of trees and shrubs to ever be introduced into the United States. Gorging themselves on the leaves of up to 300 host species, gypsy moth caterpillars defoliate and weaken the trees that make up our national forests and community landscapes.

[learn more](#)

**REPORT A SIGHTING**

Report a sighting of an invasive pest in Arkansas to be a part of the fight against invasives.

**INVASIVES IN ARKANSAS**

Learn more about invasive pests that have made their way into Arkansas.

**INVASIVES 101**

All you need to know about invasive pests. What they are, how to identify them, and why you should care.

**POTENTIAL INVADERS**

Information about potential new pests and how you can help stop their spread.

**RESOURCES**

Resources to help you in the fight against invasive pests.

# On-line Course: Arkansas Invaders

http://learn.uaex.edu/file.php/475/Lessons/Arkansas%20Invaders%20Potential%20Threats%20to%20Arkansas%20Forests%20output/story.html Zimbra: Inbox (56) SunGard Higher Education Course: Forest Invasive Pest (F... Arkansas Invaders: Potential... X

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help zimbra Inbox (41) UA Cooperative Extension... https://zmail.uaex.edu/ser... zimbra Inbox (7) My Sites UAEX Banner User Login Centra UAEX Division Directory Employee Search For Faculty and Staff Google Convert Select

Arkansas Invaders: Potential Threats to Arkansas' Forests

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Menu Notes

Arkansas Invaders: Potential Threats to Arkansas' Forests

Welcome

Introduction

Which of these

What about these?

What is an Invasive Species?

Economic or Environmental Har...

Do They Cause Environmental ...

Bermuda Grass

What About These?

What Does Native Mean?

Native or Non-native?

Native or Non-native?

"Invasive vs. Non-Invasive"

Invasive or Non-Invasive?

Invasive or Non-invasive?

Where does that lead us?

Invasive & Non-invasive

Four Categories

Native & Invasive or Native & N...

Are non-native non-invasive sp...

Non-Native Invasive

Arkansas Invaders: Potential Threats to Arkansas' Forests

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NEXT >

- Instructional videos
- Scripted Presentations
- On-line reading materials
- Discussion board
- Quizzes
- Resources
- Certificate
- CFE's

150%

# Impacts

- 400 registered foresters educated
  - 80% of all foresters registered in AR
  - Includes foresters from AR, OK, LA, TX
  - Estimated 3.3 million acres of woodland (~18% of the forested acres in AR)
- > 250 Master Gardeners educated
- One Master Gardener wrote:



- "Because of two presentations of yours that I heard, I removed five burning bushes as well as a wee clump of Japanese Blood grass. People drive by my gardens to get ideas about what to plant...they stop and ask questions too."
- "Rather difficult for me to say, 'Don't plant these' when they are on display in our yard. ... Just wanted you to know that you are making a difference with your talks".

# Key to Success

- Partnerships
- Asking for (& listening to) input
  - Recognizing that our peers have answers as well
  - We don't know it all!
- Local knowledge
  - Top down doesn't work well
- Flexibility
  - Be willing to change.....





Questions?