

Vitex rotundifolia

BEACH VITEX

Verbenaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

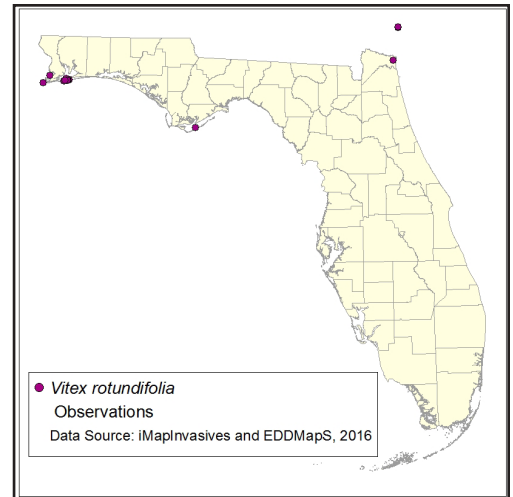
IFAS Assessment

North -
Central -
South -

USDA Hardiness Zone: 7-10

Growth Habit: Shrub

Origin: Japan, eastern Asia, Southeast Asia, India, Pacific islands.



Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org

Description: Woody, deciduous shrub growing 30 to 60 cm tall, procumbent stems sprawling to 5 m or more, rooting at nodes, forming dense mats with age. Leaves suborbicular, opposite, 2 to 7 cm long, blue-green above and light greenish-white below, pubescent, with spicy aroma when crushed. Flowers blue-purple, to 2 cm long, in short terminal panicles to 8 cm long. Fruits green, turning blue-black at maturity, to 6 mm in diameter.

Habitat: Beach dune

Comments: Can colonize beach foredunes, established in North and South Carolina.

Florida Introduction Date: 1980s in North Carolina

Control Methods:

Mechanical/Chemical: removal using a machete, shears, or a pruning saw to slice stems diagonally, close to the ground and with the cut surface facing up, and then applying an herbicide to the exposed cuts. Thick stands of small seedlings or re-sprouts can be treated with a roller dipped in herbicide. Sparse seedling populations can be pulled out manually.

Note: Clippings should be placed in plastic trash bags and sent to a landfill. They should not be used for mulch, as seeds and broken shoots left behind will wash to new beaches during storms and take root.

Useful Resources:

Clemson University Cooperative Extension. 2013. Home and Garden Information Center. <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2315.html>. Accessed on December 6, 2013.

Public Works Magazine. 2013. http://www.vegetationmanagement.pwmag.com/bestpractices/coastal_exotic_vine_diminishes_dunes.html. Accessed on December 6, 2013.

University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. 2013. Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States: beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia* L.). <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=11609>. Accessed on December 6, 2013.