



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN, DVM
Commissioner

PEST: Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*)

BASIC PROFILE: Cogongrass is a highly invasive grassy weed that takes over pastureland, ditches and understory areas of forest. It chokes out native plants and poses fire threats to forests. Every April, Cogongrass sends up silvery inflorescences 2-4 inches long, borne on grass stalks ranging from 2-4 feet tall. The grass remains green long into fall and early winter. It spreads by movement of vegetative parts in soil, fill dirt or possibly on equipment. It requires repeated herbicide treatments for control.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF has conducted surveys for Cogongrass in the past and may be conducting surveys for Cogongrass in the future. Survey is done visually, usually by driving down roads and walking near forested areas, or other high-risk areas; or through following up on reports of grass patches from the public. It has been found in numerous Louisiana parishes. Cogongrass is listed as a federal noxious weed.

