

**Florida Invasive Plant Update
Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel
on Aquatic Invasive Species
April 1, 2009
Shreveport, LA**

- State budget cuts will likely impact the amount of invasive aquatic plants controlled in Florida during the next few years.
- Isolated (3) *Salvinia molesta* populations have been found and are under treatment in the Panhandle.
- Topramezone, a bleaching herbicide similar to fluridone, is effective on fluridone tolerant hydrilla and is being tested in Florida under an EUP.
- Biological control efforts have failed to find insects/pathogens for hydrilla in Southeast Asia and Africa after several years of searching for biological control agents. These research projects will likely be terminated come July 1, 2009.
- A planthopper insect, *Megamelus scutellaris*, a biological control agent for water hyacinth has been recommended by the USDA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for field release and likely will be released within the next year or two in Florida.
- Two new plant species have been found in Florida and have become established: *Luziola subintegra* (water grass), a native of South America, rooted in water bodies and creates dense mats, and *Azolla pinnata* (feathered mosquito fern), a native of Southeast Asia and Africa, a floating plant that creates a dense canopy.