Soil is a complex system of living and non-living things. The shorthand definition of soil, published in the Soil Science Society of America Journal of Science in Society, is: “The unconsolidated mineral or organic material on the immediate surface of the Earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of plants.”

Follow the Virginia Forest Landowner Update on Twitter: @VFLU
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We have started a monthly trivia contest – on the first of each month, be the first to answer a forestry-related trivia question, and win a free VFLEP logo hat! See the Facebook page for complete rules.

You Ain’t From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Cogongrass

The first thing I learned in my Purdue soils class was the difference between soil and dirt. Dirt is the stuff on the bottom of our shoes. Soil is living system necessary for life. Since dirt is a non-living substance that often carries a negative connotation, I think this is a valuable distinction. Soil is, quite literally, the foundation of our lives. Even though it is such a thin layer of our earth’s surface, like the peel of an apple, we depend on it for food and fiber.

The mineral and organic components of soil are variable and depend on many factors. These factors include the geologic history of an area (e.g., glacial or wetland), past use of the land (e.g., forest, crop, pasture), and management of the soil. For example, the organic matter content of a soil can be increased by the addition of organic materials such as compost or manure.

The organic components of soil, however, are easily modified. The lessons learned was hard won during the soil health workshops held throughout the state. Working with soil, organic matter becomes crucial and vital to soil health.

In general, soils in勒ved areas are the healthiest soils in the world. This is due to large part to the natural process. The forest is nearly a closed system with the ability to cycle nutrients from the soil, into the atmosphere, and back again to the soil. This cycle retains and may even increase soil nutrient and organic matter.

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For the most complete listing of natural resource education events, visit
http://www.trees.org/treemaps/cogongrass/

CogenGrass, Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama

For more information contact:
Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech
jgagnon@vt.edu; 540/231-6391.

CogenGrass is distributed by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The information provided is based on the best available information but may not fully reflect all phases of the pest's life cycle. The use of pesticides must be in accordance with current guidelines of the state's Department of Agriculture. Read and understand the labeling and follow directions of the pesticide manufacturer. Do not make applications when the weather forecast indicates possible rain within 48 hours after the application. For the most current information, please contact your county Extension Agent or visit the Early Detection Network website at http://www.cogongrass.org/cogongrassid.pdf.

CogenGrass is often confused with cogon grass (andsou), a species native to Asia. Cogongrass is also known as broomsedge, redtop, johnsongrass, horse grass, or dener. Cogongrass is a taller, denser, more unpalatable grass that can spread farther and faster. It is an invasive species and can displace native vegetation. Cogongrass is not native to Virginia and requires regulated applications. For more information contact your local Extension office.

Cogongrass was first reported in Alabama in 2004, and it now occurs in all the southeastern states. http://www.cogongrass.org/cogongrassid.pdf.

Cogongrass: A Fast Growing, Uncompromising Invasive

Cogongrass is a weedy grass that grows in dense circular infestations. It is found in the southeastern states, including Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama. It can spread through seeds or rhizomes, which are long, underground stems that can store food and aid in propagation. Cogongrass can grow up to 3-4 feet tall and can form thick mats that prevent other vegetation from growing. It is a hardy plant that can tolerate a wide range of soil and climate conditions. Cogongrass is a problem in forests, wetlands, and agricultural areas, and it can reduce the productivity of these areas.

Cogongrass has several characteristics that make it difficult to control. For example, it can spread through seeds and rhizomes, and it can grow in a wide range of environments. It is also a hardy plant that can tolerate a wide range of soil and climate conditions. Cogongrass is a problem in forests, wetlands, and agricultural areas, and it can reduce the productivity of these areas.

Cogongrass can be controlled using a variety of methods, including mechanical, chemical, and biological control. Mechanical methods include mowing, cutting, and grazing. Chemical methods include herbicides and insecticides. Biological methods include the use of natural enemies, such as birds and mammals, and the use of plants that can compete with cogongrass. Cogongrass is a hardy plant that can tolerate a wide range of soil and climate conditions, and it can spread through seeds and rhizomes, which are long, underground stems that can store food and aid in propagation.

Cogongrass is a problem because it can spread through seeds and rhizomes, and it can grow in a wide range of environments. It is also a hardy plant that can tolerate a wide range of soil and climate conditions. Cogongrass is a problem in forests, wetlands, and agricultural areas, and it can reduce the productivity of these areas.

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