

As responsible stewards of the environment and to ensure healthy natural ecosystems, the Piney Z Homeowners Association has contracted with Kestrel Environmental Services of Gainesville to control invasive plant species within the HOA common areas. Controlling invasive plant populations typically promotes the growth of native species and results in the restoration of overall natural plant communities. Ultimately this will result in a healthier ecosystem for our common areas, as we strive to live in harmony with our environment. The three targeted common areas are on the northeast side of the roundabout at Piney Z Plantation Road and Heritage Park Blvd, behind the lodge between Heritage Park Blvd and Piney Village Loop, and the common area between 1160 and 1172 Winter Lane.

The City of Tallahassee has been controlling exotics in nearby Lafayette Trail Park and Tom Brown Park for the last several years as well. This is a multifaceted invasive plant management program that includes hand pulling, biocontrols, herbicide treatment in high density areas and public education. Plants targeted will be primarily Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category I & II species including, but not limited to, coral ardisia, nandina, Japanese climbing fern, Chinese tallow tree, camphor tree, mimosa tree, glossy privet, Chinese privet, kudzu, air potato, and cogon grass. Care is taken to avoid injuring native plants.

This work is expected to begin on Monday, January 10, weather permitting, and will last for several days. Periodic follow up maintenance will continue well beyond this initial effort. Here is a link to a city of Tallahassee video about the importance of controlling exotic plants in Florida <https://youtu.be/dUv2G4DUCIQ> For more information you can email Russell Pfof at Fsu77qt@sprynet.com.