



Their ability to reach enormous height and their shallow root structure put their potential for disaster in hurricane-prone Florida at nearly 100%. In every city hit by a hurricane, from Homestead to Punta Gorda, large-scale, widespread damage from Australian Pines has occurred. Downed Australian Pines are not a possibility during a hurricane; they are inevitable. The damage from these trees has and will continue to cost Floridians dearly.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT AUSTRALIAN PINE:

- Remove seedlings by hand pulling or herbicide treatment
- Use Basal bark treatment with herbicide for trees under 8 inches in diameter
- Use cut stump treatment for large trees that may fall and damage personal property



We must weigh the consequences

*It is not about a few trees
graciously lining
a stretch of coastal highway,
but rather
where the wind will take them.*



Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
For more information visit our website at:

www.fleppc.org
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The Wolf In Sheep's Clothing

Australian PINE



AUSTRALIAN PINE



Beach erosion

While many people admire the sizeable stature and shade provided by the Australian Pine tree it continues to work its deadly way along our shorelines and through our natural areas, our parks and our neighborhoods. At a minimum it causes erosion of our beaches and is a serious threat during storm season. In the 1990's legislation was passed making it illegal to propagate or plant them without special permits.

Several species of the Australian Pine were introduced to Florida sometime before 1924. A single tree is able to produce thousands of seeds that can then scatter through the winds. They have since become common sight throughout southern and central Florida. Their towering height (up to 70 feet) and dense falling leaves allow them to shade out native plants dependant on

sunlight. Along the coastline the choking out of this understory vegetation is overwhelming. Unlike natural dune plants, Australian Pine root systems do not trap sand therefore allowing beach erosion. In large Australian Pine populations (monocultures) there is nothing preventing massive beach erosion. The coastal populations have severely affected the endangered American Crocodile, the Loggerhead Turtle and the Green Sea Turtle by usurping prime nesting areas. **One could argue that while you might have to live without beach shade wouldn't it be wonderful for Florida beaches to support the returning of sea turtles.** Very few song birds will nest in or eat from Australian Pine. It also threatens terrestrial animal life by seriously degrading habitat quality.

Driving along the coast with the top down perhaps, under the picturesque Australian



Upturned roots on a turtle nesting sight

Pine canopy, one could wonder why anyone would want to remove these trees. Imagine the drive with a storm raging along the coast and just one of these trees blocking your way. Their shallow roots and brittle limbs make them extremely vulnerable to high winds. There is no way around a 30 to 70 foot Australian Pine blocking your escape route. Worse yet is the possibility of a tree landing on your home or vehicle during a storm. Their ability to cause tremendous damage and threaten life can not be ignored. They can also mean power outages, expensive cleanup and increase flood risk by damming of drainage canals.

