



Hammock Dunes[®]
A Private Oceanfront Golf Community

Dear Hammock Dunes Residents,

The Brazilian Pepper Plant (tree) has been found in virtually every corner of Hammock Dunes. This insidious plant grows at a steady and alarming pace, choking everything in its path. It will, and does kill all other plant life in its growth area. The plant is now classified as an aggressive and invasive specie by state law and cannot be sold or owned in Florida.

The community acknowledged that we have a substantial and extensive Brazilian Pepper population two years ago and set about a plan to clear the area of the plant (tree) before it cleared the area of all of our more attractive and productive indigenous plants and trees. Clearing consists of cutting the plant (which grows as large as many trees in the community) treating the stump against rebirth and removing all traces of the cuttings from the area.

The best time to do this is in the fall and winter months when the plants themselves are dormant and there are less hazards to the workers (read that as snakes) as the pepper population can be extensive in an area and go deep into the foliage.

The HOA has hired Corey Enterprises to attack several of the Pepper colonies within the gates. Particularly those that demonstrate tree-like plants and large areas of thick concentration.

In addition, we have been very fortunate to have the FREE services of the A1A Historic Scenic Byway Group supporting our efforts along our gate line as they move to eradicate the plant along A1A. In this case, the A1A group cuts the plants and treats the stumps, leaving the clean up for Corey.

The Pepper is so invasive that when it is cleared from some areas there is little left. Some community residents have noticed this and have asked what is going on. Particularly those where the plant was so big that it secluded specific properties and acted as a natural border to roadways, etc. In these cases the HOA hires Corey to go into the cleared areas and re-plant indigenous species. So, if there is a wide open space that once was closed with "shrubbery" that is the reason. But residents should be aware that we will address those open spaces as part of the total pepper eradication program.

Regards,

Bob Bagdon
Chair, Maintenance Committee

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