



Is Your Property Tallow Tree Free?

Tallow Tree Terminator's Update

Part 17: Tallow Trees Emerge on Recently Disturbed Areas

The Tallow Tree Removal Program is a long-term effort by the Dataw Island Conservancy to wipe out the invasive Chinese tallow tree. Tallow trees are able to outcompete and displace desirable trees such as Live Oaks.

Tallow trees are now growing in areas where large trees damaged by Hurricane Matthew were cleared. The areas which were then bush-hogged, created ideal conditions for previously dormant tallow tree seeds to germinate as the moist ground was exposed to sunlight.

Tallow Tree Terminators recently found hundreds of tallow trees up to about three feet tall growing on lots located between Gleasons Landing Drive and the southern part of Hill Field Pond. The photo below shows Tuffy Hartz surrounded by a cluster of tallow tree saplings and cut stems of saplings in the foreground. As tallow trees produce seeds after three years, the potential impact of these recently sprouted plants is substantial.

To mitigate this impact, tallow tree sapling must be pulled out of the ground or cut near the ground with a snipper; in either case, one should spray an herbicide with the active ingredient triclopyr. Tallow Tree Terminators use the product Garlan 4. Bayer's Brush Killer, which is sold in retail stores such as Lowes, also contains triclopyr. The spraying is essential because tallow trees are very resilient and can re-sprout from any trace of root left in the ground.

Many acres of land on Dataw Island were similarly cleared of large trees and then bush-hogged after Matthew. Hence, the Conservancy expects the extent of this problem to be enormous. If you own

a lot that fits this condition, please check it for the presence of small tallow trees. The Dataw Island Conservancy would appreciate property owners taking action by either weeding out or cutting tallow saplings and spraying one of the herbicides mentioned previously. However, if you are unable to do this yourself, please contact Tuffy Hartz (838-9898) or Guy Apicella (838-0965) to enlist the services of the Tallow Tree Terminators.

For more information about the Tallow Tree Removal Program, go to the Conservancy's web pages on the Dataw.com site.

<https://members.dataw.com/default.aspx?p=DynamicModule&pageid=395508&ssid=>



This is a voluntary program that relies on each and every property owner to become educated on the threat that tallow trees pose to the island's ecology, and to do their part. The success of this program depends heavily on the property owner's volition to remove any tallow trees that are found from their land.

You can make a difference!