The Invasive Plant Atlas of the MidSouth (IPAMS)
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The Invasive Plant Atlas of the MidSouth, or IPAMS, is a web-based database system designed to allow users to access and record information on invasive plant species and their locations. Additional information provided by IPAMS includes distribution maps, identification assistance, management and control techniques, and reporting information. Emphasis will be placed upon, but not limited to, invasive species populations within the MidSouth region. Data will be shared amongst other organizations as well as through the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). The database will include numerous invasive plant species, although initial training workshops for non-scientists will focus on 40 invasive plant species. These 40 species represent six primary habitats: aquatic, managed forests, pasture, rights-of-way, row crop, and wildland areas. IPAMS utilizes field data protocols established by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) and includes general information, GPS location information, and invasive plant species information. The IPAMS system provides tools for users to manage their data within the database. An alert notification system is also provided to allow interested parties to be notified when certain species are located within certain areas. IPAMS provides up-to-date distribution maps through an ArcIMS system. IPAMS will provide a single stop for the region for invasive plant locations, management methods, and reporting information so that individuals can effectively perform early detection and rapid response for invasive plant species threatening the landscape.