



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee must routinely manage pest plant species that are not native to the state and are both injurious to and costly in the management of our state's natural areas, wildlands, farmlands, managed forests, recreation areas and parks, and home landscapes; and

WHEREAS, invasive pest plant species are expensive with costs to private landowners, small businesses, state and federal agencies which are substantial and result in economic losses in crops, timber sales, and grazing and foraging across Tennessee and the United States; and

WHEREAS, invasions by pest plant species result in significant decreases in biodiversity with invasion of habitat by exotic pest plant species as one of the primary reasons cited for endangerment of rare species; and community structure and ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, fire regimes, and hydrology are altered when pest plant species are introduced; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee recreational groups, government and industry, educational institutions and entities, land trusts, conservation organizations, nurseries, botanic gardens, and gardening groups acknowledge the economic and environmental dangers posed to their continued economic and social well being by the presence of invasive pest plants; and Tennessee government agencies, private sector entities and conservation groups strongly support implementation of all aspects of integrated weed management; and

WHEREAS, the Tenth Annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week will be held in Washington, DC, February 22-28, 2009, to bring together groups from across the country to focus attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 22 through February 28, 2009, as

INVASIVE WEED AWARENESS WEEK

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 15th day of January, 2009.

Governor

Secretary of State