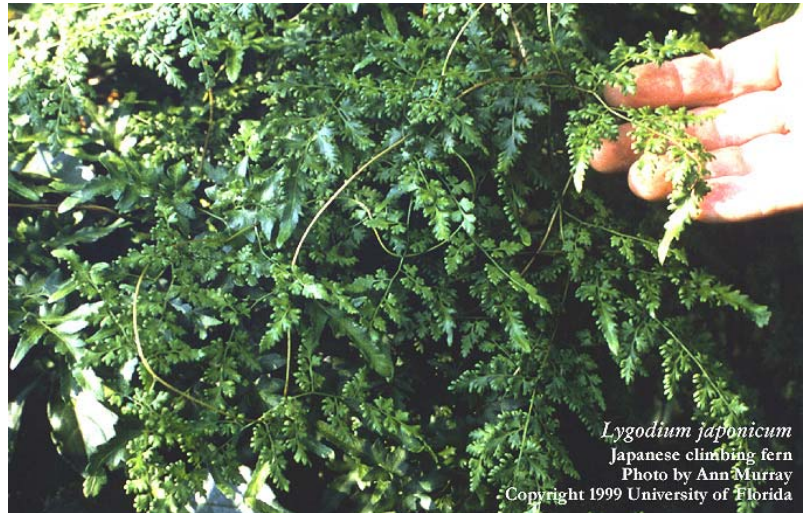


## **Invasive Species Profile:** **Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*)**

### **Identifying Characteristics**

Climbing and twining perennial vine-line fern that grows to 90 feet. Arises from underground, widely creeping rhizomes. Wiry stems may be green to orange, turning dark brown or black. Leaves are finely divided when mature and bright green. Leaves have a lacy appearance and are 2 to 6 inches long and 2 to 3 inches wide.



### **Habitat**

Occur in disturbed areas such as roadside ditches and along fence lines and bridges. Also commonly found along stream and swamp margins and open forests.

### **Growth Habits**

Will grow in shady or sunny areas; will also thrive in shallow water or dry areas. Form mats up to 4 feet thick on trees and shrubs. Mostly deciduous by late winter; climbing stems that have died back provide a trellis for next season's growth. Reproduce by millions of spores spread by wind and other physical carriers.



### **Control Methods --- Cut-Stump or Foliar**

Cut to knee-high then apply glyphosate immediately or foliar spray using glyphosate and metsulfuron methyl (with extreme care is treating around desirable plants). Try to remove upper fronds, as spores may still be viable. Dispose of dead material in plastic bags. Treat this plant when it is actively growing (July through October). Reapplications will be necessary.

### **Florida-Friendly Replacements:**

Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)  
Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)  
Chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*)