

Invasive Species Profile: Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*)

Identifying Characteristics

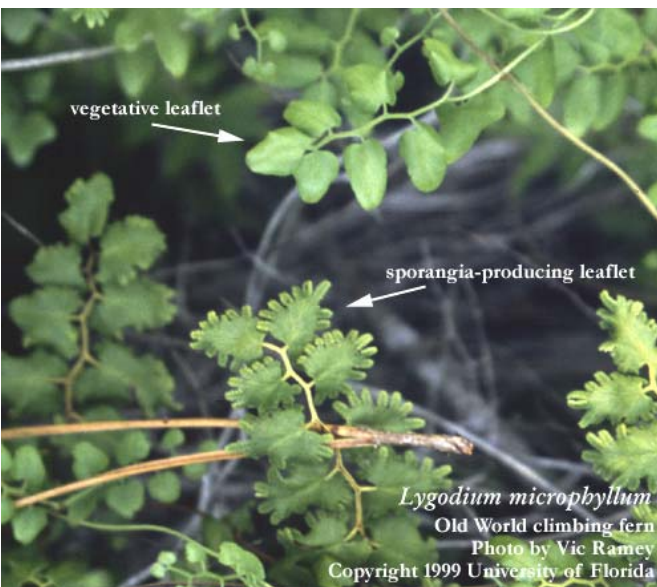
Climbing and twining perennial vine-line fern that grows to 90 feet. Arises from underground, widely creeping rhizomes. Leafy branches off main stalk are once compound, oblong, and 2 to 5 inches long. Leaflets usually unlobed and articulate (leaving wiry stalks when detached); fertile leaflets fringed with tiny lobes of enrolled leaf tissue covering the sporangia along the leaf margin.

Habitat

Invades hardwood hammocks, mesic flatwoods, forested swamps, wet flatwoods, hydric hammocks, floodplain forests, strand swamps, and any disturbed sites.

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*)