

Ficus microcarpa

LAUREL FIG

Moraceae

Common Synonyms: *Ficus nitida*, *Ficus retusa*, *Ficus thonningii*

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

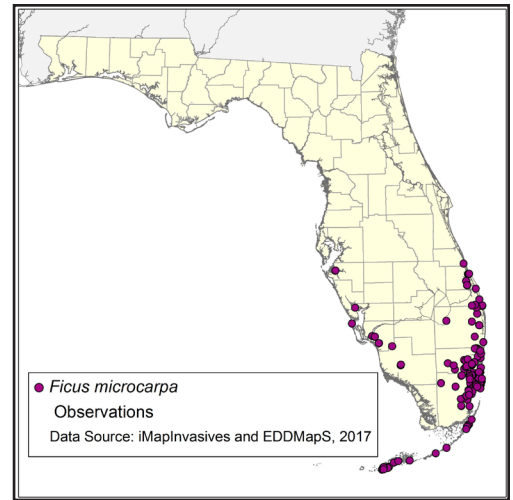
IFAS Assessment

North	OK
Central	CAUTION
South	CAUTION

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9b-11

Growth Habit: Tree

Origin: India, Malaysia, Africa



Keith Bradley

Description: An evergreen tree up to 15 m tall. Has smooth gray bark, a dense rounded crown, and produces adventitious roots. Leaves are alternate, simple, dark glossy green, are oval elliptic to diamond shaped at 13 cm long, and produce milky sap. Flowers are inconspicuous and hidden beneath the a fleshy, specialized receptacle known as a “fig”. The fig develops into multiple fruits, in pairs at leaf axils, 1 cm wide, and turn yellow to deep red when ripe. Does not need soil to germinate, and is often found growing in building crevices, sidewalk cracks, or in the boots of cabbage palms.

The native strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*) has larger leaves with yellowish veins.

Habitat: Disturbed sites.

Florida Introduction Date: Pre-1912

Control Methods: .

Chemical: Basal bark (10% Trichlopyr ester). [IFAS].

Useful Resources:

Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

IFAS, UF. 2015. Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas. *Ficus microcarpa*. <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/Ficus-microcarpa/> Accessed June 11, 2018.

Comments: Began invading natural areas after accidental introduction of its pollinator, a species specific wasp, in the 1970s. Able to survive in little or no soil.