**Lygodium japonicum**  
**JAPANESE CLIMBING FERN**  
*Schizaeaceae*

Common Synonyms: none

**FLEPPC Category:** 1  
**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** Yes

**IFAS Assessment**
- North: PROHIBITED
- Central: PROHIBITED
- South: PROHIBITED

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 8a-11

**Growth Habit:** Vine (Fern)

**Origin:** Eastern Asia, temperate to tropical

**Description:** Perennial vine-like fern reaching up to 27 m in length. Fronds are compound and have indeterminate growth, reaching lengths of over 6 m. Stems are green, orange, or black and wiry, forming dense mats. Leafy branches (pinnae) from the main rachis are triangular in shape, 10-20 cm long. Leaflets lobed, stalked, with terminal lobes dissected, pubescent below. Fertile leaflets are contracted in shape and have two rows of sporangia along the inrolled leaf margin.

Note: Similar to Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*), which has unlobed leaflets that are glabrous below.

**Habitat:** upland hardwood forest, floodplain forest, flatwoods, upland pine, swamps, marshes, slope forest, wet prairie, baygall, disturbed areas

**Florida Introduction Date:** 1930’s

**Control Methods:**
- Chemical: 3% glyphosate per 100 gallons. Do not exceed 40 gallons spray solution per acre, imazapyr 50 oz/100 gal (~0.39%) (use only where appropriate relative to non-target species), imazapic 40 oz/100 gal (~0.31%). [IFAS].

**Useful Resources:**

**Comments:** Smothers native vegetation, especially tree seedlings.