

Coral Vine

Antigonon leptopus
(Hook & Arn.) Polygonaceae



Biology



- Native to Mexico
- Also called Rose of Montana
- Fast growing climbing vine
- Tolerates poor soil and a wide range of light levels

Background

Economic Uses

- Cultivated in south and central Florida as an ornamental
- Showy flowers and attractive foliage

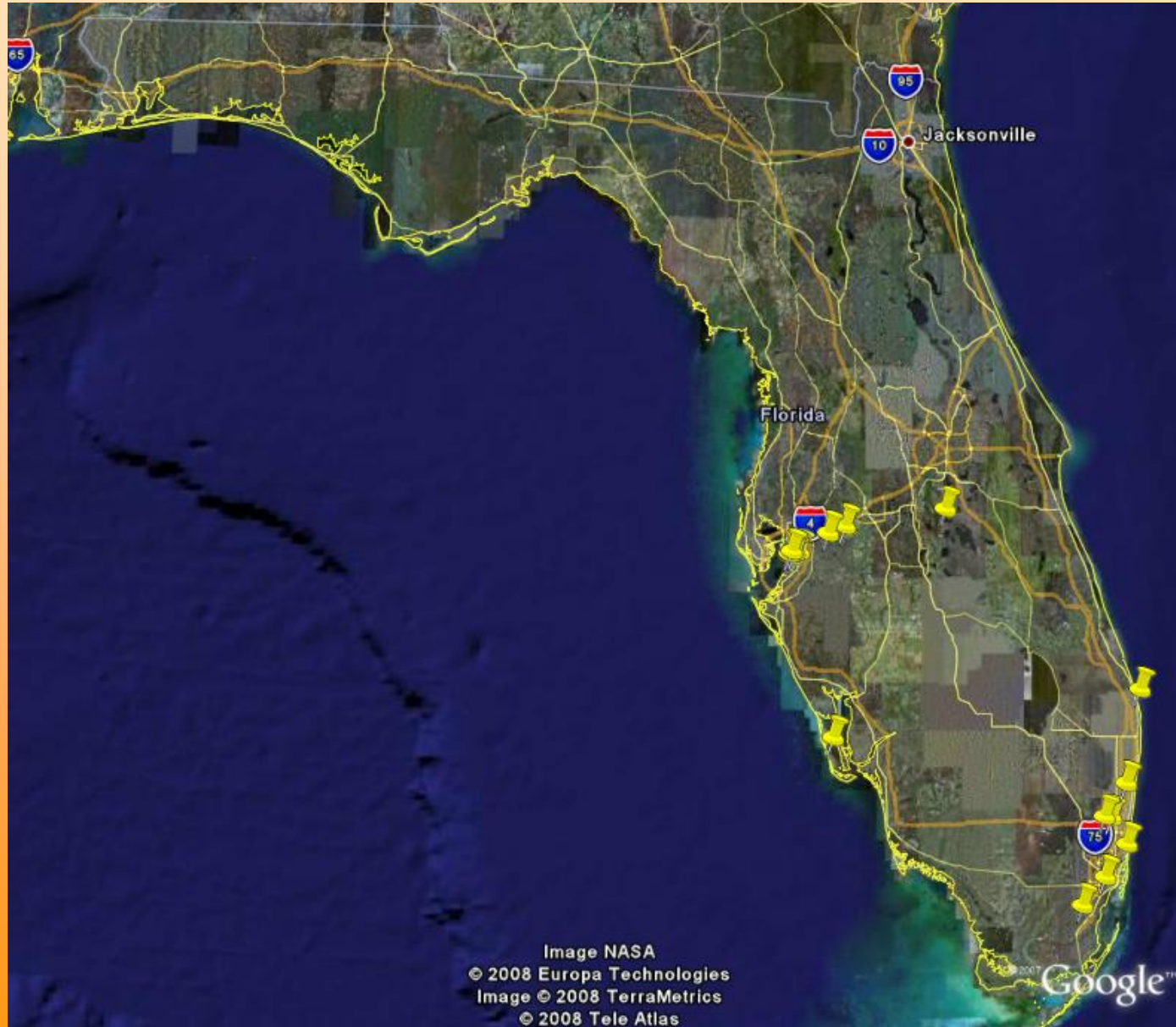


Distribution

- Found throughout areas of south and central Florida
- Commonly found along roadways and disturbed areas, forest edges
- Generally as a direct escape from cultivation



Coral Vine Distribution in Florida



Impacts

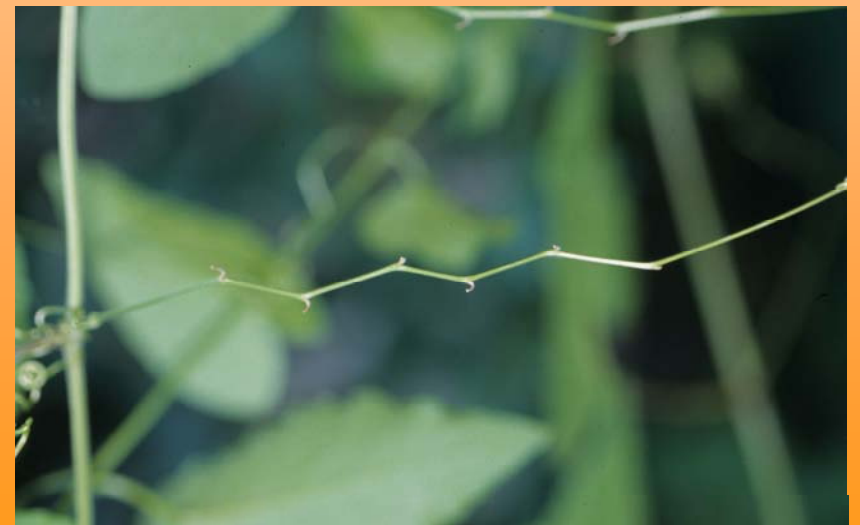
- Category II invasive species (FLEPPC)
 - Population explosion in recent years
- Smothering vine, covers nearby plants
- Prolific seed production and readily resprouts if cut back



Identification

Mature Plant

- Perennial climbing vine
- Able to trellis over 25 feet
- Forms a large underground tuber and multiple rootstocks
- Holds via tendrils



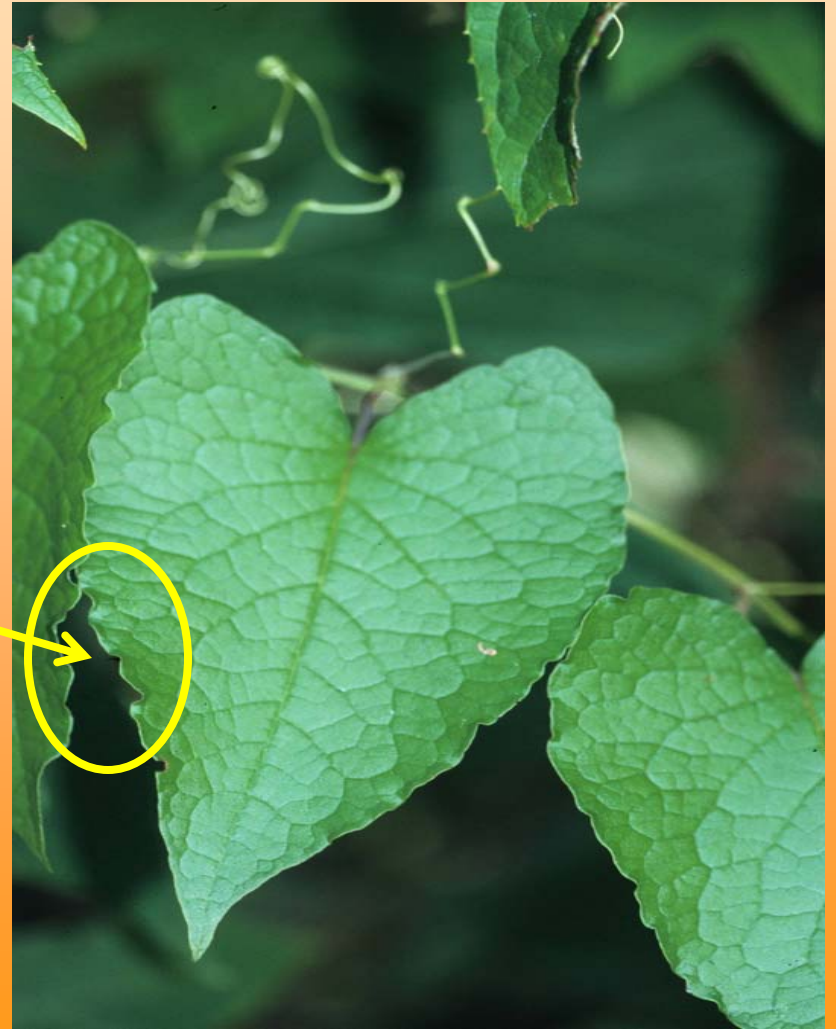
Seedling- Young Plant

- Leaves oblong at the seedling stage
- Distinctive structure – ocrea that wraps the leaf around the stem



Leaves

- Alternately arranged
- Triangular or heart-shaped
- Bright green with wavy margins



Flowers and Seed

- Flowering occurs from spring thru fall in Florida
- Long flowering racemes (stalks)
- Pink to purple color
- Seed small (< 1cm)
 - winged



Management

Preventative

Cultural

Mechanical

Biological

Chemical

Preventative



1. Limit planting as an ornamental
2. Remove existing plants, including tuber and rootstocks, before seeds are produced
3. Prevent seed spread and dispersal

Cultural



1. Alternative landscape plants to replace coral vine
2. Programs to educate homeowners about the problems associated with coral vine and proper identification
3. Maintain good ground cover and mixture of plant species to reduce establishment

Biological

1. There are no known biological control agents available for coral vine management in Florida or the southeastern U.S.



Mechanical



1. Hand pull young seedlings, including all roots
2. Continuous cutting to deplete food reserves, will take several cycles
3. Physically remove (dig up) tuber
4. Mowing would be effective but multiple mowings would be necessary – generally not possible

Chemical



1. Limited research in this area
2. Over-the-top foliar applications
3. Thoroughly wet leaves with herbicide
 - ✓ Triclopyr – 2% solution
 - ✓ Glyphosate – 2 to 3% solution
 - ✓ Use surfactant at 0.25%



Useful Links

- Floridata Homepage:
http://www.floridata.com/main_fr.cfm?state=Welcome&viewsrc=welcome.htm
- University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants:
<http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/welcome.html>
- University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Electronic Data Information Source:
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html>

Useful Links

- Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER).
Plant Threats to Pacific Ecosystems:
<http://www.hear.org/pier/threats.htm>
- http://issg.appfa.auckland.ac.nz/database/species/reference_files/antlep/Factsheet_Guam.pdf

Literature Cited

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- McConnell, J. and R. Muniappan. Guam Pest Series, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Cooperative Extension System, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam.
- Nelson, G. 1996. The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida. Pineapple Press, Sarasota, FL. 391 pp.