Skunkvine
*Paederia foetida* (L.) Rubiaceae
Biology

- Native to Asia
- Introduced in 1897 to Brooksville USDA station as a potential fiber crop
- Species name “foetida”
  - Latin for “stinky” or “foul smelling”
  - Odor released when leaves are crushed, from sulfur compounds in leaves
Economic Uses

- no beneficial uses to date
- Immediately problematic upon introduction
Distribution

- Found in several areas of west and north central Florida
- Found along roadways and disturbed areas
- Wide range of habitats
  - Hardwood, mixed pine forests, sandhills, floodplain forests and marshes
Skunkvine Distribution in Florida
Impacts

• Category 1 invasive species (FLEPPC) – spreads into undisturbed sites
• Climbing vines engulf and cover trees
• Vine mass causes branches or entire trees to break or collapse and crawling vines form a dense layer of vegetation
• Smothers shrubs and other plants growing in the understory, displacing native vegetation
Identification
Mature Plant

- Woody climbing vine, lacks thorns
- Always twines to the right
- Grows >30 feet in length
Leaves

• Leaves are found in various sizes and shapes
• Bases rounded, tips pointed with smooth margins
• May be opposite on the stem or in whorls of three
Flowers and Fruit

- Flowers are small, light grayish pink, red centers
- Fruits are round, shiny brown
- 2 tiny black seeds per fruit
Management

Preventative

Cultural

Mechanical

Biological

Chemical
Preventative

1. Remove existing plants, including resprouts and before seeds are produced
2. Rouge out vines in abandoned areas
3. Use caution when disposing plant material, may contain seeds or cuttings
4. Clean equipment after in areas infested with skunkvine
Cultural

1. Programs to educate homeowners about the problems associated with this vine and proper identification

2. Maintain good ground cover and mixture of plant species to reduce establishment
1. There are several insects being investigated for skunkvine, but no release of biocontrol agents to date.
Mechanical

1. Hand pull young seedlings, including all roots, repeated pulling for resprouts
2. Cut vine down at ground level
3. Mowing is effective, although likely impractical, but must be repeated
1. Over-the-top applications for seedlings, resprouts and small vines
2. Thoroughly wet leaves with herbicide
   - Triclopyr – 2% solution
   - Glyphosate – 2 to 3% solution
   - Use surfactant at 0.25%
3. Best results when applied spring and summer
1. Use 100% triclopyr solution with basal oil
2. Apply 12 to 15 inches above ground on stems
3. Wet thoroughly for good control, spray until run-off is noticeable at ground line
Chemical – Cut Stump

1. Cut stems horizontally at or near ground level
2. Apply 100% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr
3. Cover the entire cut stem
4. Marker (blue) dye is helpful
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


• Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States: http://www.invasive.org
Literature Cited

