

Lygodium japonicum Japanese climbing fern



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Appearance: Fern with climbing, twining fronds of indeterminate growth, to 30 m (90 ft) long; main rachis wiry, stemlike.

Leaves: Leafy branches off main rachis (constituting the pinnae) are compound, triangular in overall outline, 10–20 cm (4–8 in) long and about as wide. Leaflets (pinnules) lobed, stalked, with terminal lobes often dissected. Basal lobes irregularly lobed or dissected; leaf-blade tissue pubescent below with short, curved hairs.

Spores: Sporangia on the margins of the fertile part of the leaf (pinnule). Wind- and water-dispersed.

Ecological threat:

Can form tangled masses over ground cover and shrubs, its dense canopy eliminating the underlying vegetation. Reportedly forming sun-blocking “walls” of fern in tributary floodplains of the Apalachicola River, and smothering seedlings of overstory tree species. FLEPPC Category I

Distribution: NW, NE, C, SW, SE



Field Notations

LYGOJAPO/LYJA

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>