

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>