

Coral Ardisia

Ardisia crenata (Sims) Myrsinaceae



Biology



- Native to Japan and Northern India
- Also known as Christmas berry
- Small, upright shrub

Background

Economic Uses

- Used extensively as an ornamental plant
- Desirable species in the landscape
 - Persistent red berries
 - Glossy foliage
- Low maintenance



Distribution



- Found throughout much of north and central Florida
- Commonly found in disturbed areas, but will invade hardwood hammocks and other natural areas

Coral Ardesia Distribution in Florida



Impacts



- Category I invasive species (FLEPPC)
 - Disrupts natural plant communities
- Shade out desirable species, especially native seedlings and understory plants
- Resprouts readily after fire or mechanical removal
- Heavy fruit set after 2 years of establishment

Identification

Mature Plant

- Small upright shrub, up to 6 feet tall
- Often grows in large colonies
- Shade tolerant, understory species



Seedlings

- Seedlings often found encircling a mature plant
- Plants will remain in juvenile stage until mature specimen is removed



Leaves

- Alternate arrangement, but tight to the main stem
- Scalloped margins
- Dark, thick, glossy green



Flowers and Fruit

- Flowering occurs in spring – small white/pink clusters
- Fruit are bright red and hang from the plant
- Persist on the plants for several months



Fruit and Seed

- Fruit readily consumed by wildlife - birds
- Seed viability is very high and germinate in a wide range of soil conditions



Management

Preventative

Cultural

Mechanical

Biological

Chemical

Preventative



1. Limit planting as an ornamental
2. Remove existing plants, including resprouts and before seeds are produced
3. Rouge out plants in abandoned areas

Cultural



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

Biological



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

Mechanical



1. Hand pull young seedlings, including all roots, repeated pulling for resprouts
2. Mowing or clipping/chopping is effective, but must be repeated due to resprouting from rootstocks. However, mowing may not be practical in many areas.

Chemical - Foliar



1. Over-the-top applications for seedlings and large plants
2. Thoroughly wet leaves with herbicide
 - ✓ Glyphosate – 2-3% solution plus surfactant at 0.25% to increase herbicide penetration of the waxy leaves
 - ✓ 2,4-D – 2-3% solution is also effective, but only on seedlings or resprouts

Chemical - Foliar



1. Over-the-top applications for seedlings and large plants
2. Use 18% triclopyr solution with basal oil or 10% diesel fuel



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>
- Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States: <http://www.invasive.org>

Literature Cited

Langeland, K.A. and K. Craddock Burks. 1998. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville. 165 pp