

Asclepias curassavica

SCARLET MILKWEED

Apocynaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

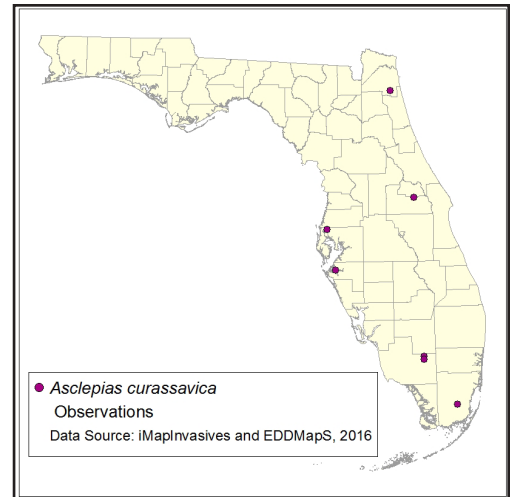
IFAS Assessment

North	OK
Central	OK
South	CAUTION

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8a-11

Growth Habit: Perennial herb

Origin: Tropical America



FNAI

Description: Perennial herb (sometimes can be annual), erect and glabrous, to 1.2 m tall. Milky sap throughout. Stems are dull green, round, and smooth, leaves simple, opposite, short stalked, lanceolate, 7-13 cm long with a narrow base. Inflorescence is a cluster of 6-15 flowers; flowers radially symmetrical, bright red or orange with yellow centers, 5 petals. Corolla lobes reflexed with inwardly curved horns. Fruit a pair of dry, dehiscent, spindle-shaped follicles, 5-15 cm long, many seeded. Seeds with a tuft of white silky hairs.

Habitat: disturbed areas

Florida Introduction Date: Earliest Florida specimen vouchered in 1942.

Control Methods: Mechanical: Hand pull most effective (Mangrove Mountain).

Chemical: Difficult to kill with glyphosate (Mangrove Mountain).

Useful Resources:

Mangrove Mountain. 2014. *Asclepias curassavica*. <http://www.weeds.mangrovemountain.net/data/Asclepias%20curassavica%20-%20Redhead%20cotton%20bush.pdf>. Accessed on June 25, 2014.

PIER. 2013. Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER): *Asclepias curassavica*. http://www.hear.org/pier/species/asclepias_curassavica.htm. Accessed on June 25, 2014.

Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2008. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research.] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.

Comments: Seeds are wind dispersed. Widely naturalized in the tropics.