

Dioscorea polystachya

CHINESE YAM

Dioscoreaceae

Common Synonyms: *Dioscorea oppositifolia*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

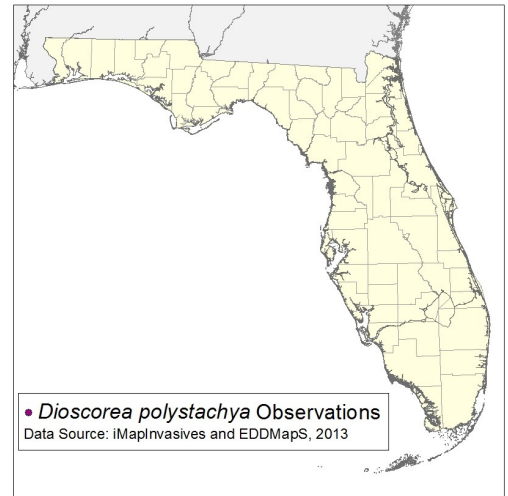
IFAS Assessment

North -
Central -
South -

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5b - 11

Growth Habit: Vine

Origin: China



Jack Ranney, University of Tennessee, Bugwood.org

Description: Creeping and climbing vine up to 5 m in height, climbing over trees and shrubs. Leaves alternate or opposite, acute with heart-shaped base, 4-8 cm long. Clustered flowers fragrant, small, yellow-white, bell-shaped in leaf axils. Aerial tubers (bulbils) 0.7-3.0 cm long covered with adventitious buds form in leaf axils in late summer.

Note: Distinguish from native wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*) by the presence of bulbils and glabrous upper leaf surface.

Habitat: Rich soils along streams, creeks, and rivers, disturbed sites

Comments: Only vouchered from Alachua Co. Established in mid-Atlantic, KY, TN, etc. Climate may limit spread to FL.

Florida Introduction Date: introduced in US 1800's, Florida introduction date unknown

Control Methods:

Chemical: Foliar (4% glyphosate plus 0.5-1% non-ionic surfactant, Bugwood). Most effective after leaves are fully formed and before bulbils are ripe.

Useful Resources:

Dave's Garden. 2013. PlantFiles: Chinese wild yam, cinnamon vine, *Dioscorea oppositifolia*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/53822/>. Accessed on December 9, 2013.

University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. 2013. BugwoodWiki: Chinese yam - *Dioscorea oppositifolia*. http://wiki.bugwood.org/Archive:SEPPC/Chinese_Yam_-_Dioscorea_oppositifolia_L.. Accessed on December 9, 2013.