

Ficus altissima

FALSE BANYAN

Moraceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: 2

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

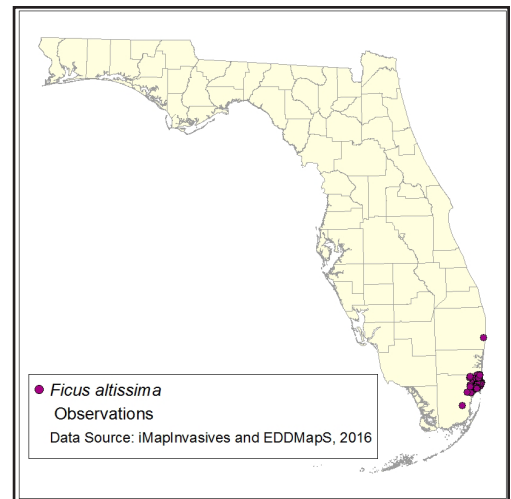
IFAS Assessment

North	OK
Central	OK
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9b-11

Growth Habit: Tree

Origin: Indian to south China and Malaysia



Tony Pernas, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

Description: Evergreen, epiphytic, strangling shrub or tree to 25 m tall. Bark silvery and trunk often buttressed, with multiple trunks, and aerial roots. Leaves alternate, leathery, simple, glabrous, and glossy dark green to 20 cm, leaf tips rounded. Tiny flowers enclosed in the “fig”, a specialized inflorescence. Fig is ovoid, glabrous, to 2 cm diameter, yellow to orange.

Note: Similar to the native strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*) but has larger ovate (rather than elliptic in *F. aurea*) leaves.

Habitat: tropical hammock, mangrove swamp, scrub, pine rockland

Comments: Often found growing as epiphytes.

Florida Introduction Date: 1913

Control Methods:

Chemical: Basal bark (10% Trichlopyr ester, IFAS)

Useful Resources:

Dave’s Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: False Banyan, *Ficus altissima*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/94277/>. Accessed on June 20, 2014.

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.