

Invasive Vegetation -

Air Potato

(Dioscorea bulbifera)



INVASIVE & NUISANCE SPECIES IN BREVARD COUNTY FLORIDA

IDENTIFICATION, REMOVAL, AND REPLACEMENT



Jim Tear

Species was added to the Florida Noxious Weed List (5b-57.007 FAC) by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1999. Plants on the Florida Noxious Weed List may not be introduced, possessed, moved, or released without a permit.

IDENTIFICATION



Air Potato is a vigorously twining herbaceous vine, which arises from an underground tuber. Branched stems grow to 60' in length. Stems are round or slightly angled in cross section and twine to the left (counter-clockwise). Aerial tubers (bulbils) freely form in leaf axils. Bulbils are usually roundish, to 5" x 4", and look similar to a round potato. **Leaves** are long, petioled (stalked), **alternate**; blades to 8" long, and heart shaped, with basal lobes usually rounded and with arching veins all originating from one point. Male and female parts arising from leaf axils on separate plants (dioecious species), in panicles or spikes to 4" long. Fruit a capsule; seeds partially winged.

Winged yam (*Dioscorea alata*), also a non-native invasive species and similar in appearance, often arises from a massive underground tuber, **has opposite leaves**, and **stems are square in cross section, with corners "winged,"** with longer, narrower bulbils.*

REMOVAL

- *Treat leaves with RoundUp®, Garlon™, glyphosate, or triclopyr-containing products
- *Use **foliar method** (April-July) with care if treating around desirable plants—only cut Air Potato stems if entwined around desirable plants
- *Use basal bark treatment with large stems
- *Remove ALL bulbils (hand gather) and dispose of in garbage (that is incinerated).

FOLIAR METHOD: Apply herbicide with a backpack or similar hand-operated pump sprayer equipped with a flat spray tip or adjustable cone nozzle. Apply herbicide to the leaves and stems of target plants using a consistent back and forth motion. Herbicide should thoroughly cover foliage, but not to the point of run-off. All recommended herbicides require complete foliar coverage to be effective.

BASAL BARK METHOD: Herbicide is applied directly to the bark around the circumference of each stem up to 15 inches above the ground.

YOU MUST FOLLOW LABEL OF HERBICIDE CONTAINER!

REPLACE WITH

Moonflower



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*Moonflower
(*Ipomoea alba*)

*Coral Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera sempervirens*)

*Virginia Creeper
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
(not shown)

Coral Honeysuckle



Vic Ramey, University of Florida

MORE INFORMATION



Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
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Viera, FL 32940
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Brevard County Natural Resources
<http://www.brevardcounty.us/natres/publications.cfm>
FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services
<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/botany/noxweed.html>
FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/>
FL Exotic Pest Plant Council
www.fleppc.org
Invasive and Exotic Species
<http://www.invasives.org>
National Wildlife Federation
http://enature.com/native_invasive/
University of FL IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>