

# *Dioscorea bulbifera*

## AIR-POTATO

### *Dioscoreaceae*

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** 1

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** Yes

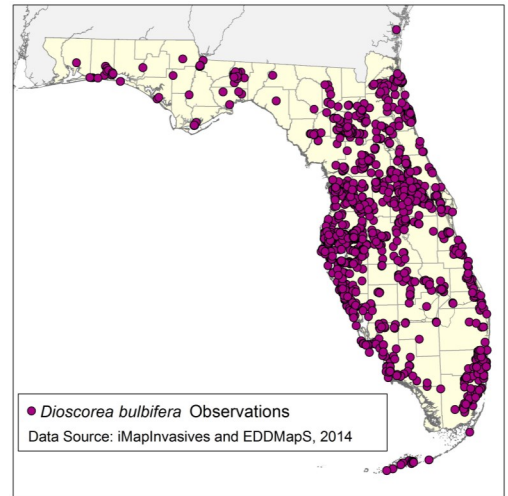
**IFAS Assessment**

North	PROHIBITED
Central	PROHIBITED
South	PROHIBITED

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 9a-11

**Growth Habit:** Vine

**Origin:** Tropical Asia



FNAI

**Description:** Twining, herbaceous vine, with small or absent underground tubers. Stems to 20 m or more. Internodes, round, not winged. Bulbils roundish to 12 cm, surfaces smooth and formed in leaf axils. Leaves with long stalks, alternate, to 20 cm, broadly heart-shaped. Flowers rare, small fragrant, dioecious, in panicles or spikes to 11 cm long. Fruit a capsule.

**Note:** Similar to *D. alata* which has opposite leaves and native *D. floridana*, which never forms bulbils and has smaller leaves.

**Habitat:** hammocks, hardwood forests, disturbed areas

**Florida Introduction Date:** 1905

#### **Control Methods:**

Mechanical: Cut vines from trees and cut and remove bulbils from site. Dig up tubers.

Chemical: Foliar (1-2% Glyphosate, IFAS), cut-stem (10% Trichlopyr ester, IFAS).

#### **Useful Resources:**

Dave's Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: Air potato, *Dioscorea bulbifera*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/32235/>. 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.

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,