

Lygodium microphyllum,
Old World climbing fern

Invasive



Similarities

Appearance: Both *Lygodium microphyllum* and *L. japonicum* are perennial climbing ferns that will remain green throughout the year in warmer climates, unless freezing temperatures occur. The fronds can climb 90 ft. or more into treetops. Vines are thin, wiry, and can become very dense. They consist of the climbing frond stems which arise from the horizontal stems (stolons and rhizomes) on and beneath the ground.

Fronds: The pinnae on both *L. microphyllum* and *L. japonicum* are attached opposite on the vine and are roughly triangular in shape. The margins of fertile pinnae contract to finger-like projections that bear sporangia which produce tiny wind spores that are easily dispersed by the wind.

Differences

Fronds: The main difference between *L. microphyllum* and *L. japonicum* is the number of divisions of their pinnae. The sterile pinnae of *L. microphyllum* is pinnate while *L. japonicum* is bipinnate.

Also, the pinnae of *L. japonicum* [3-6 in. (8-15 cm) long] can be slightly larger than pinnae of *L. microphyllum* [2 to 5 in. (5-12.7 cm) long].

Lygodium japonicum,
Japanese climbing fern



Lygodium palmatum,
American climbing fern

Native



Appearance: *Lygodium palmatum* is a perennial climbing fern with long and creeping stems, that can grow up to about 9 feet long.

Fronds: Sterile pinnae are very broadly ovate, deeply and palmately 3-7-lobed. Fertile pinnae are 3-5-forked or lobed, ultimate divisions palmately and sometimes irregularly lobed. Fertile pinnae are smaller than sterile pinnules but are otherwise similar. The margins contract, and rolled leaf tissue cover sporangia that produce wind dispersed spores. *Lygodium palmatum* is generally local and rare. This species is not tolerant of shading.



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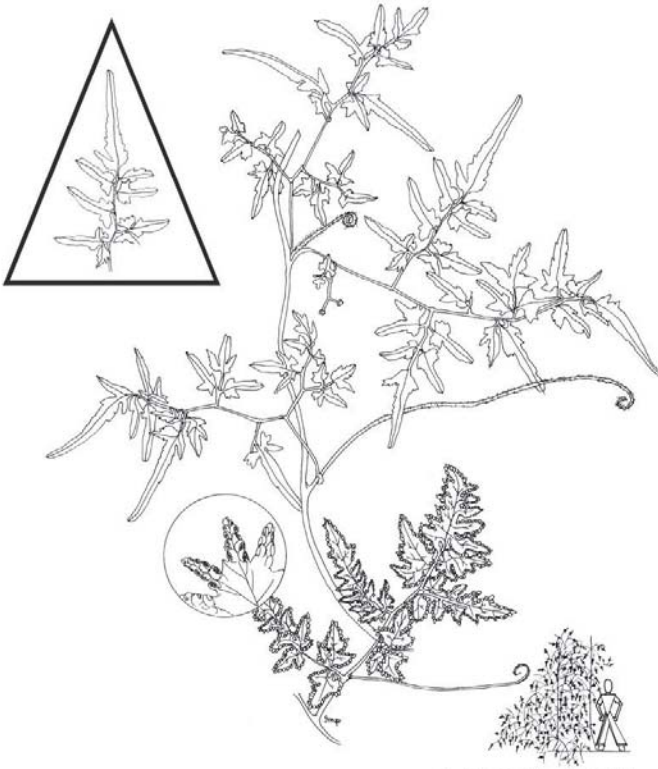


Lygodium japonicum,
Japanese climbing fern

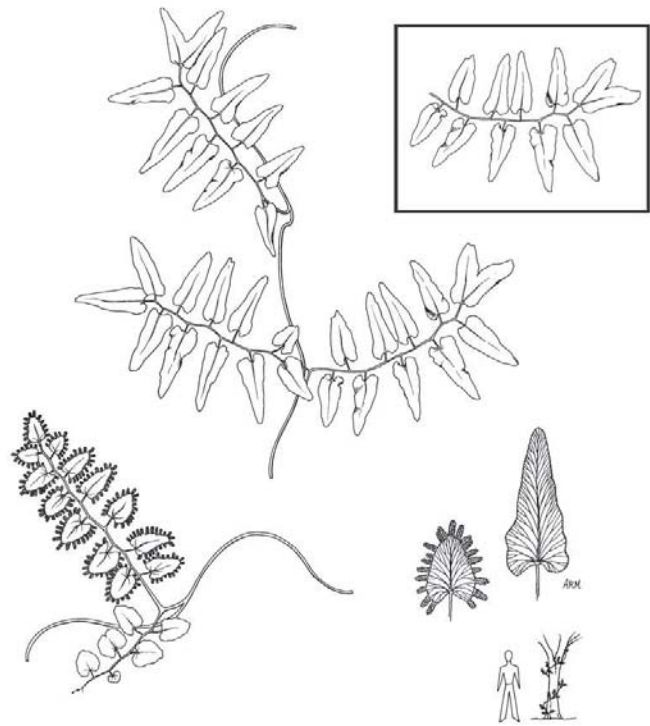
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Lygodium japonicum

Japanese climbing fern

Lygodium microphyllum

Old World climbing fern



Native

Lygodium palmatum

American climbing fern



Sterile



Fertile