

The Central Florida Lygodium Strategy

“Working Across the Fence Line”

What is the Central Florida Lygodium Strategy (CFLS)?

This is a project to detect and remove *Lygodium* species (invasive climbing ferns) on private lands, to stop its spread and prevent new infestations in central Florida. There are two species of climbing ferns now found in central Florida, Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) and Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*). **In 2009, CFLS will focus on controlling Old World climbing fern in Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Pasco, Hillsborough and north Polk Counties.**

Why should I care?

Old World climbing fern is advancing north from its infestations in south Florida. It threatens conservation habitat and private lands. This fern grows over and smothers *all* other plants, destroys wildlife habitat and working lands, and increases fire hazard intensity by carrying fire into tree canopies and into wetlands. Where this fern is left untreated, it continues to produce spores, spreads to new areas and re-infests treated areas.

Who is working on this problem?

The Nature Conservancy, in cooperation with twelve other public and private agencies, including the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Working Group and other regional land managers, is working to implement the Central Florida Lygodium Strategy. Neighbors across public and private property fence lines are working together to prevent the continued northward spread of this climbing fern.

How can I help to rid my land of *Lygodium*?

Early and repeated treatment is necessary to control this weed. Learn how to identify it and how to kill it. Visit the CFLS website for more information on this, or use the information below to contact staff at CFLS. Feel free to ask questions!

What type of assistance is available?

CFLS, through staff provided by The Nature Conservancy, will help you identify whether you have Old World climbing fern, and if you do, CFLS has funds to provide a professional contractor to treat infestations on your property with herbicide. Some of our funding sources also allow us to treat other invasives on your property if they are within the vicinity of the fern treatment areas. In addition, CFLS can provide you with recommendations for follow-up treatments and for incentive programs that may be able to provide additional assistance.

How can I sign up?

Call or email Rosalind Rowe, (863) 635-7506 or (rowe@tnc.org).

For more information see our website: www.nature.org/centralfloridainvasives

