



# Air Potato

*(Dioscorea bulbifera)*



## Instant ID

- A vine with heart-shaped leaves up to 8 inches by 8 inches
- Leaves have veins in a radial pattern and are staggered on the stem
- Tendrils look like corkscrews with a counter-clockwise twist
- Bulbils (potato-like growths) sprout along stem and range in size from a pea to a softball

## Hijacked Habitats

- Introduced to Florida in 1905
- Native to Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
- Can gain hold in disturbed and natural settings
- Found in most Florida habitat types, where it covers and kills native trees





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## Plant Particulars

- Grows as fast as 8 inches a day
- Spreads through bulbils, which fall off in the winter and sprout a new plant in the spring
- Bulbils will float and spread to new areas
- Can also spread through underground tubers

## Population Prevention

- Bulbils are poisonous
- On Florida Noxious Weed List, it is “unlawful to introduce, multiply, possess, move, or release . . .” Rule 5B-57.004
- Removing this plant from yards helps to decrease its spread
- For removal information, visit [www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu)

