

Australia/New Zealand Weed Risk Assessment adapted for Florida.

Data used for analysis published in: Gordon, D.R., D.A. Onderdonk, A.M. Fox, R.K. Stocker, and C. Gantz. 2008. Predicting Invasive Plants in Florida using the Australian Weed Risk Assessment. Invasive Plant Science and Management 1: 178-195.

<i>Fittonia verschaffeltii</i> (nerve plant)			
Question number	Question	Answer	Score
1.01	Is the species highly domesticated?	n	0
1.02	Has the species become naturalised where grown?		
1.03	Does the species have weedy races?		
2.01	Species suited to Florida's USDA climate zones (0-low; 1-intermediate; 2-high)	2	
2.02	Quality of climate match data (0-low; 1-intermediate; 2-high)	2	
2.03	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	n	0
2.04	Native or naturalized in habitats with periodic inundation	?	
2.05	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	y	
3.01	Naturalized beyond native range	n	-2
3.02	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	n	0
3.03	Weed of agriculture	n	0
3.04	Environmental weed	n	0
3.05	Congeneric weed	n	0
4.01	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	n	0
4.02	Allelopathic	n	0
4.03	Parasitic	n	0
4.04	Unpalatable to grazing animals		
4.05	Toxic to animals	n	0
4.06	Host for recognised pests and pathogens		
4.07	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	n	0
4.08	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	n	0
4.09	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	y	1
4.1	Grows on infertile soils (oligotrophic, limerock, or excessively draining soils)	n	0
4.11	Climbing or smothering growth habit	n	0
4.12	Forms dense thickets	n	0
5.01	Aquatic	n	0

5.02	Grass	n	0
5.03	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	n	0
5.04	Geophyte		
6.01	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat		
6.02	Produces viable seed	?	
6.03	Hybridizes naturally		
6.04	Self-compatible or apomictic		
6.05	Requires specialist pollinators		
6.06	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	y	1
6.07	Minimum generative time (years)	1	1
7.01	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)		
7.02	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y	1
7.03	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant	n	-1
7.04	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	n	-1
7.05	Propagules water dispersed	n	-1
7.06	Propagules bird dispersed		
7.07	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	n	-1
7.08	Propagules dispersed by other animals (internally)		
8.01	Prolific seed production	n	-1
8.02	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)		
8.03	Well controlled by herbicides		
8.04	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation or cultivation		
8.05	Effective natural enemies present in Florida, or east of the continental divide		
Total Score			-3

Outcome	Accept*
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*Used secondary screen from: Daehler, C. C., J.L. Denslow, S. Ansari, and H. Kuo. 2004. A risk assessment system for screening out harmful invasive pest plants from Hawaii's and other Pacific islands. *Conserv. Biol.* 18: 360-368.

section	# questions answered	satisfy minimum?
A	7	yes
B	10	yes
C	11	yes
total	28	yes

Data collected 2006-2007

Question number	Reference	Source data
1.01		cultivated, but no evidence of selection for reduced weediness
1.02		
1.03		
2.01		
2.02		
2.03	Lorenzi and Emygdio de Mello Filho (2000) The Tropical Plants of R. Burle Marx. Instituto Plantarum de Estudos da Flora Ltda.	Native to the tropical rainforest of Peru.
2.04	Horticopia 4.0	"This plant tolerates occasional wetness."
2.05	1. Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida. 2. Horticopia 4.0	used horticulturally (1, 2)
3.01		no evidence
3.02		no evidence
3.03		no evidence
3.04		no evidence
3.05		no evidence
4.01	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida.	no description of these traits
4.02		no evidence
4.03	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida.	no description of this
4.04		
4.05		no evidence
4.06		
4.07		no evidence
4.08		no evidence
4.09	1. Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida. 2. Horticopia 4.0	1. "requires filtered shade (maximum light level is 50 percent sun)" 2. full shade to partial sun
4.1	1. Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida. 2. Horticopia 4.0	1. "requires...organic soil" 2. "suitable soil is well-drained/loamy"
4.11	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of	herbaceous ground cover

	Florida.	
4.12		no evidence, and is a low-growing herb
5.01		terrestrial
5.02	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida.	Acanthaceae
5.03	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida.	herbaceous, Acanthaceae
5.04		
6.01		
6.02		no mention of reproduction by seed
6.03		
6.04		
6.05		
6.06	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida.	"creeping stems root at nodes"
6.07	Horticopia 4.0	annual or perennial
7.01		
7.02	1. Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida. 2. Horticopia 4.0	used horticulturally (1, 2)
7.03		no evidence
7.04	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida.	fruit a capsule
7.05		no evidence
7.06		
7.07	Dehgan, B. (1998) Landscape Plants for Subtropical Climates. University Press of Florida.	fruit a capsule
7.08		
8.01		no mention of reproduction by seed
8.02		
8.03		
8.04		
8.05		