

Macfadyena unguis-cati cat's claw vine



Macfadyena unguis-cati cat's claw vine

Appearance: High-climbing woody vine, with stems to 6 cm (2.4 in) in diameter and roots becoming elongate-tuberous with age. Branches and runners with aerial roots.

Leaves: Opposite, compound, with 2 leaflets and a terminal 3-forked tendril; tips of tendril forks stiffly hooked, clawlike. Leaflets mostly 3–7 cm (1–3 in) long, oval to lance shaped, with margins entire.

Flowers: Showy, trumpet shaped, to 7 cm (3 in) long and 10 cm (4 in) across; solitary or in few-flowered clusters at leaf axils; petals joined into yellow floral tube with orange lines in the throat.

Fruit: A linear, flat capsule, to 50 cm (20 in) long, with oblong, winged seeds.

Ecological threat:

Increasingly spreading into natural areas in northern Florida; has become dominant ground cover in undisturbed hammocks by Lake George. Extremely difficult to control tuberous roots. Also reported as rapidly spreading in four hammock preserves in Dade County. FLEPPC Category I



Distribution: NW, NE, C, SW, SE

Field Notations

MACFUNGU/MAUN3

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>