

Effective immediately, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) has issued a Federal Import Quarantine Order (May 30, 2008) to prevent the importation of *Lygodium microphyllum* (Old World Climbing Fern) and *Lygodium flexuosum* (Maidenhair Creeper). The restrictions apply to any parts capable of propagation, including spores and leaves (fronds) of these climbing fern species.

Prohibited Plant Species

Lygodium microphyllum



Figure 1
Fertile and
sterile fronds

Lygodium flexuosum



Figure 2
Fertile fronds
with sporangia

Damage

These climbing ferns spread prolifically, scrambling over vegetation, creating a fire hazard, smothering native plant communities and causing other harmful environmental and economic impacts.



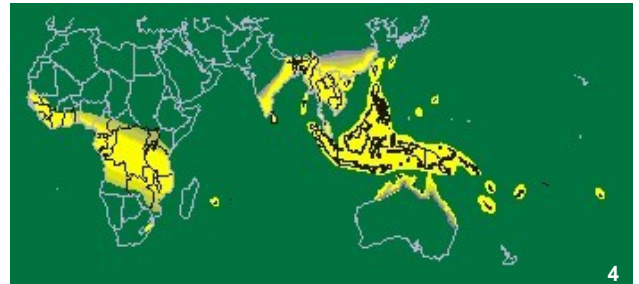
Figure 3
Environment
infested with
*Lygodium
microphyllum*

Affected Commodities and Port Inspections

Cut Flowers should be carefully inspected as recently APHIS learned of commercial interest in importing *Lygodium microphyllum* as cut flower greenery. The *Cut Flower and Greenery Manual* has been updated to add a Table for these ferns under Polypodiophyta. These ferns have also been added to the List of Regulated Propagative Material in the *Nursery Stock Restrictions*.

Distribution

Lygodium microphyllum is native to south east Asia and Australia and also occurs in Florida, where it is a State noxious weed, subject to control.



Lygodium flexuosum, a weed of rice, plantation crops and natural lowland vegetation in eastern Asia and Australia, is not known to occur in the United States.

