Air Potatoes

Today on Gardening in a Minute: air potatoes.

The air potato is an invasive plant that can take over large areas very quickly by climbing trees and choking vegetation.

To prevent the plant from spreading, in January or February, pick up all of the bulbils that have fallen to the ground. Dispose of the potato-like objects in your regular trash, not with your yard waste.

Air potato is cold-sensitive and will appear to die back in the winter, but any potatoes that remain in the ground can sprout new vines in the spring and summer.

You’ll need to hand-pull these vines while they’re young. But once they get to a certain size, you may need to apply an herbicide to get them under control.

Always read and follow label instructions and use caution when handling herbicides.

For more information about air potato and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.