



Fact Sheet

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## Coral Ardisia

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Coral ardisia, *Ardisia crenata*, is a perennial shrub that was imported as an ornamental plant from Japan and India. It is often called Christmas berry in the ornamental trade. Coral ardisia has become an escaped invasive in Florida. The shrub is an evergreen with ovate dark green leaves that grows to approximately two to six feet in height. A distinguishing characteristic is the bright red berries that form in clusters on the plant. In Florida, Coral ardisia prefers shade and is often found growing under oak hammocks and other shaded areas.



Coral ardisia with ripe berries. Photo by Ann Murray

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Coral ardisia is strongly suspected of causing cattle deaths in Florida. The plant is not generally readily eaten by livestock but in cases where it has been ingested, the results may be fatal.

Coral ardisia can be controlled with herbicides containing either triclopyr or imazapic.

For more information:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag281>



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Coral ardisia plants treated with triclopyr herbicide. Untreated plants in background.  
Photos by Ed Jennings