

# Invasive Vines



*Wisteria sinensis* and *floribunda*, Oriental Wisteria



*Vitis* sp., Wild Grape



*Celastrus orbiculatus* Oriental Bittersweet



*Polygonum perfoliatum*, mile-a-minute weed



*Toxicodendron radicans*, Poison Ivy



*Hedera helix*, English Ivy

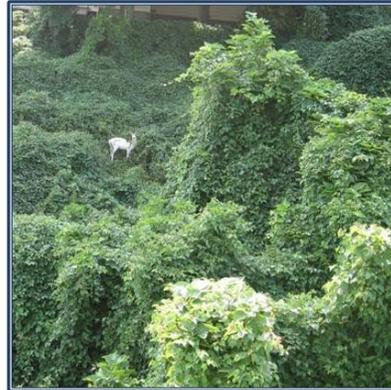


*Lonicera japonica*, Japanese Honeysuckle



*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, Porcelianberry

# INVASIVE VINE FACT SHEET



## *Invasive Vines*

English Ivy (*Hedera helix* L.);  
Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* [Lour.] Merr.);  
Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus* Thunb.);  
Porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* [Maxim.] Trautv.)

**General:** English ivy was introduced by colonists as an evergreen, low-maintenance groundcover and is still widely available in nurseries and retail outlets.

**Alternate Names:** English ivy – Atlantic ivy; Kudzu – Vine-that-ate-the-south or Japanese arrowroot; Oriental Bittersweet – Asian bittersweet or Japanese bittersweet; Porcelain berry – Amur peppervine

**Origin:** English Ivy – Europe, western Asian, and northern Africa; Kudzu, Oriental Bittersweet & Porcelain berry - Asia

**Habitat:** Adapted to a wide variety of habitats and soil types including forest edges, fields, disturbed areas, and roadsides; tolerate full sun to partial shade

**Distribution:** Eastern U.S.

**Ecological Threat:** Climbs over and blankets desirable native plants, eventually shading them out and killing them or causing them to fall due to excess weight

**Reproduction:** By seed and vegetatively

**Dispersal:** Seeds dispersed by birds and people

**Control:** Herbicide and removal

**Native Alternatives:**

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*); Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)

Kudzu was introduced in the 1870s as an ornamental plant and used throughout the South in the 1930s and 1940s to reduce soil erosion. Kudzu is listed as a federal noxious weed.

Oriental bittersweet was introduced in the 1860s as an ornamental plant and is still widely used for landscaping and decoration as wreaths.

Porcelain berry was originally cultivated for bedding and as a landscape plant. Despite it being well-known as an invasive plant, porcelain berry is widely used and promoted in the horticultural trade.

**Identification:**



*English Ivy*



*Kudzu*



*Oriental Bittersweet*



*Porcelain Berry*

**Reproduction:** These vines reproduce by seed which is dispersed by birds and small animals. The vines also reproduce vegetatively through root fragments, cuttings, or suckers.

**Control Methods:** Do not plant these vines. A combination of manual or mechanical removal and herbicide application yields the most effective results. Take care not to spread seed when removing mature vines.

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**Alternate Names:** Hall's honeysuckle

**Length:** 20 feet or more

**Origin:** Eastern Asia

**Habitat:** Adapted to a wide variety of habitats; can tolerate full sun and shade

**Distribution:** Throughout the eastern U.S. from Maine to Florida and west to Wisconsin and Texas

**Ecological Threat:** Climbs up and over desirable vegetation eventually smothering and killing plants; girdles shrubs and saplings

**Reproduction:** Seed

**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds

**Control:** Herbicide and removal

**Native Alternatives:**

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*); Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)



### *Japanese Honeysuckle*

*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.

**General:** Japanese Honeysuckle is a fast-growing, perennial, and deciduous to semi-evergreen vine introduced in Long Island, NY in 1806 for ornamental, erosion control and wildlife uses. It is adapted to a wide variety of site conditions from full sun to shade. Its climbing growth pattern can smother vegetation and girdle shrubs and saplings as it twines up and around stems.

**Identification:** Japanese Honeysuckle has paired (opposite), ovate leaves approximately 1 to 3 inches long by ½ to 1 ½ inches wide. The flowers bloom in June and are bi-lobed, turn white to yellow, and highly fragrant. Stems are light brown to reddish brown.



*Bi-lobed, white & yellow flowers*



*Paired, ovate leaves with reddish brown stem*

**Reproduction:** Japanese Honeysuckle reproduces by seed. The seed is primarily dispersed by birds.

**Control Methods:** Small infestations can be cut and removed by hand. Larger infestations require mechanical removal or mowing at least twice a year. Herbicide is effective for long-term control.

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**Alternate Names:** Asiatic tearthumb; Devil's tearthumb

**Length:** 20 feet or more

**Origin:** India; Eastern Asia; and islands from Japan to the Phillipines

**Habitat:** Open and disturbed areas with full sun; forest edges, stream banks, wetlands, and roadsides

**Distribution:** Northeast from Virginia to New York to Ohio and in Oregon

**Ecological Threat:** Creates a thick cover that blocks sunlight and eventually kills plants by climbing up and over native plants and trees

**Reproduction:** By seed

**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds and water

**Control:** Biological control organisms; manual removal; or herbicide

**Native Alternatives:** Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*); Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)



### *Mile-a-minute*

*Persicaria perfoliata*

**General:** Mile-a-minute (MAM) is an herbaceous, annual vine that was introduced into the United States in the 1930s in York County, Pennsylvania from a shipment of holly seeds from Japan. MAM grows rapidly and climbs over desirable shrubs and into the tree canopy ultimately killing and smothering native plants by blocking sunlight and impeding photosynthesis.

**Identification:** Alternate leaves are shaped like an equilateral (equal-sided) triangle. Stems and underside of leaf blades have recurved barbs. Circular, cup-shaped leaf structures called ocrea surround the stem at nodes. Deep-blue, berry-like fruit are arranged in clusters.



*Triangular leaves*



*Recurved barbs; cup-shaped ocrea; and MAM weevil*

**Reproduction:** MAM seed is primarily dispersed by birds as they are attracted to the colorful fruits and can transport seed for long distances. Seed is also dispersed by water and can remain buoyant for seven to nine days. Seed remains viable in the seed bank for over five years.

**Control Methods:** Biological control with the Mile-a-minute weevil is the most promising control option. Adult MAM weevils eat the leaves. Larvae bore into the stem killing the stem and preventing fruit and seed development. Vines can be removed by hand, but care should be taken to avoid injury from the barbs. When removing vines with mature fruits, ball up, bag, and dispose of vines in an appropriate landfill to avoid spreading seed. Herbicide can be used, but damage to desirable plant material is likely due to the climbing nature of the vine. Monitor infested areas for several years after control operations to ensure complete control.