

Invasive Vines

Strangling our native trees



What are invasive plants?

Invasive plants are “species intentionally or accidentally introduced by human activity into a region in which they did not evolve and cause harm to natural resources, economic activity, or humans*.” In our local environment, these plants lack natural controls and often have other characteristics that give them a competitive advantage.

Why are invasive vines a problem?

- They inhibit the growth of desirable trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers
- They can engulf small trees and shrubs, as well as strangle large trees
- The weight of the vines can topple trees, especially during storms
- They hamper forest regeneration in both wild and timbered areas
- They reproduce and spread rapidly as wildlife and people help spread their seeds

What can we do?

- Properly identify invasive vines before taking action
- Hand pull small vines to remove the roots and kill the entire plant
- Use tools to cut larger vines close to the ground and at chest height
- If possible, take action when plants are young and soil is moist
- Bag the plant and dispose of it in the trash if seeds are present
- Be careful not to spread seeds on your shoes, tools, or clothing

More information



**Blue Ridge PRISM
Website**

blueridgeprism.org



**Blue Ridge PRISM
Invasive Fact Sheets**

blueridgeprism.org/factsheets



**Rivanna Forest Restoration
Partnership Website**

rivannaforestpartnership.org

English Ivy

- Evergreen leaves with smooth edges
- Higher climbing leaves have a different shape
- Attaches to trees with hairs (rootlets) that are tan or gray on older stems



Don't confuse with:

- Poison Ivy or Virginia Creeper, native plants that also have clinging hairy vines **but** lose leaves in winter.

Japanese Honeysuckle

- Evergreen leaves with white or yellow flowers spring through summer
- Mature vines have off-white papery bark
- Wraps around trees and grows along ground



Don't confuse with:

- Coral Honeysuckle, that has orange-brown bark
- Trumpet Vine, which looks similar **but** drapes

Wintercreeper

- Glossy evergreen pointed leaves with serrated edges and white veins
- Bright red berries in fall
- Attaches to trees with hairs (rootlets) that are light gray on mature stems



Don't confuse with:

- Poison Ivy or Virginia Creeper, native plants that also have clinging hairy vines **but** lose leaves in winter.

Porcelain Berry

- Leaves are deeply lobed
- Multicolored blue and purple berries in fall
- Grows like a blanket over other plants and grabs with tendrils
- Cut stem has white pith



Don't confuse with:

- Wild Grape, a native plant that looks very similar **but** has a brown pith in the center of the cut stem

Asiatic Bittersweet

- Round serrated leaves
- Young vines are dark brown with white spots
- Mature vines are lighter with dark spots. May have a diamond pattern
- Twists counterclockwise and has orange roots



Don't confuse with:

- Wild Grape, a native plant that has young dark brown vines **but** also has tendrils

Kudzu

- Large leaves of three
- Pink to purple flowers at end of summer to early fall smell like grape juice
- Vines wrap around trees and blanket other plants
- Young stems are noticeably hairy



Don't confuse with:

- Poison ivy, which has leaves of three **but** leaflets have red stems and younger leaves are shiny

Native Vines

Poison Ivy



Virginia Creeper



Wild Grape



Coral Honeysuckle



Trumpet Vine

