

Background

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) is a deciduous, woody, climbing vine of the Grape family (Vitaceae). Its bright green leaves are alternate, with three to five lobes. This vine is often overlooked as it is very similar to our native grapes.

The species was introduced to the US in 1870 as a bedding and landscape plant. It is native to northeastern Asia. In Connecticut, Porcelainberry is present in five of its eight counties.

Porcelainberry grows well in most soils, especially forest edges, pond margins, stream banks, thickets, and waste places, where there is full sunlight to partial shade, and where it is not permanently wet.

Plants are spread by birds and other small animals that eat the fruit.

The Farmington River Coordinating Committee needs your help in locating and reporting occurrences!

Farmington River Coordinating Committee

P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
Phone (860) 379-0282

<http://www.farmingtonriver.org/>



Resources

CT Invasive Plant Working Group
(CIPWG)
<http://cipwg.uconn.edu/>

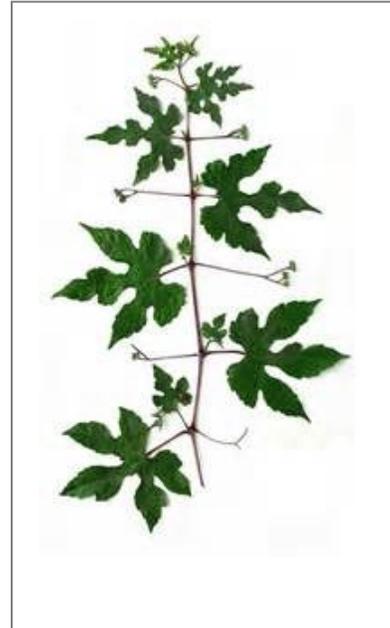
USDA Plant Database
<http://plants.usda.gov/>

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England
(IPANE)
<https://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/>

CT Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection (DEEP)
(860) 424-3000

Porcelainberry

HAVE YOU SEEN
THIS PLANT?



**What you need to know
to prevent the spread of
this non-native pest**

Why is Porcelainberry Considered Invasive?

Porcelainberry is a very fast spreading non-native vine that invades natural areas where it disrupts biological processes.

It grows vigorously in open wooded habitats where it shades out native shrubs and young trees. The seeds germinate readily in the soil after natural or human disturbances.

As Porcelainberry spreads, it climbs over and blankets existing plants,



weakening and killing them by blocking sunlight.

Porcelainberry prefers full to partial sunlight; it appears to be less tolerant of heavily shaded areas, such as the interior of mature forests.

Outside of its native range, Porcelainberry has very few natural predators. Japanese beetles, however, are known to feed on its leaves while birds and small mammals will take fruit but is not a major food source.

Description

- Plant: deciduous, woody, perennial vine resembling grape and growing to 15-20 ft.
- Bark: dotted with lenticels and does not peel (bark of native grapes lack lenticels and peels or shreds).
- Leaves: alternate, simple, 3-5 lobed to highly dissected with heart-shaped base and coarsely toothed margins, shiny underneath with hairs on veins. *Note:* Cultivated plants may have variegated leaves.



Variegated leaf

- Flowers: tiny, greenish-white occurring in flat-topped clusters opposite the leaves, appearing June through August.
- Fruit: speckled berries ranging from aqua to pink to purple; each berry carries 2-4 seeds.

Important Note:

Porcelainberry is often mistaken for native species of grape (*Vitis*).

Variability in Leaf Shape



Grape-like leaf shape with shallow lobes



Exaggerated leaf shape with exaggerated lobes



Fruit showing range of colors

Before Eradicating Porcelainberry from Your Property:

If you suspect that you have found Porcelainberry, please contact the Farmington River Coordinating Committee. We may ask you to email us a digital image of the plant to confirm its identity and schedule a site visit so we can determine the extent of the infestation.

FRCC is tracking infestations, so please report plants. We can help you control and monitor the infestation to prevent plants from spreading.

Phone: (860) 379-0282

Online:

<http://www.farmingtonriver.org/>

Early detection and rapid removal (EDRR) of this vine is critical to prevent plants from invading the Upper Farmington River Wild and Scenic Corridor.

Eradication

Once established, Porcelainberry can be difficult to control due to the vigorous root system. Pull young vines up by hand anytime and try to remove the rootstock. Employing a combination of manual, mechanical and chemical control methods often yields the best results. The method you select depends on the extent and type of infestation, the extent of native vegetation on the site, and the time, labor and other resources available to you. Whenever possible and especially for vines climbing up trees or buildings, a combination of cutting followed by application of a thin coating of concentrated systemic herbicide to rooted, living cut stems is likely to be the most effective approach. For large infestations spanning extensive areas of ground, a foliar herbicide may be the best choice rather than manual or mechanical means which could result in soil disturbance.

Herbicides are not recommended for riverside infestations.