



Porcelain-berry *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* (Maxim.) Trautv.

Common names: creeper, wild grape, porcelain-berry, amur peppervine

Native Origin: Northeast Asia - China, Korea, Japan, and Russian Far East It was originally cultivated around the 1870s in the US as a bedding and landscape plant.



Description: A deciduous, woody, perennial vine in the grape family (Vitaceae) that climbs up to 20 feet or greater. It twines with the help of non-adhesive tendrils that occur opposite the leaves. The stem pith is white and continuous across the nodes. The bark has lenticels and does not peel. The 5-inch leaves are alternate, broadly ovate with a heart-shaped base, and palmate with 3-5 coarsely toothed lobes. Small, greenish-white flowers occur in cymes opposite the leaves from June through August. The colorful fruits appear in September-October and change from pale lilac, to green, to a bright blue. Porcelain-berry spreads by seed and through vegetative means. Birds and other small animals eat the berries and disperse seeds in their droppings. The taproot is large and vigorous.

Habitat: Porcelain-berry 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. Porcelain-berry appears to be less tolerant of heavily shaded areas, such as that found in mature forest interiors. It occurs at elevations of approximately 500 – 2000 feet (150-600 m).



Distribution: Porcelain-berry is found from New England to North Carolina and west to Michigan and is reported to be invasive in twelve states in the Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Ecological Impacts: Porcelain-berry is a vigorous invader of open and wooded habitats. The thick mats formed by this climbing vine can cover and shade out native shrubs and young trees. It grows and spreads quickly in areas with high to moderate light. Vines can grow up to 15 ft. in a single growing season.



Thick mat infestation of porcelain-berry

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Hand-pull vines in the fall or spring to prevent flower buds from forming the following season. Plants should be pulled up by hand before fruiting to prevent the production and dispersal of seeds. If the plants are pulled while in fruit, bag and dispose of in a landfill. For large vines cut near the ground and either treat cut stems with systemic herbicide or repeat cutting of re-growth as needed.
- **Chemical-** Chemical control in combination with manual and mechanical methods is effective and likely to be necessary for large infestations. The systemic herbicides triclopyr (e.g., Garlon 3A and Garlon 4) and glyphosate (e.g., Roundup and Rodeo) have been used successfully.

Natural Enemies- Nine species of fungi and thirteen species of arthropods have been recorded for *Ampelopsis* species.

References: www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ambr1.htm, www.invasive.org/browse/subject.cfm?sub=3007, <http://enature.com/fieldguides/detail.asp?reclnum=TS1174>, <http://plants.usda.gov>
Invasive Plants of Asian Origin Established in the United States and their Natural Enemies p. 19-20