

Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)

Also called: Mile-a-minute knotweed, Asiatic tearthumb, Devil's tail, *Persicaria perfoliata*

Family name: Knotweed (Polygonaceae)

Native range: Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 3- Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General Description:

- Herbaceous, annual, climbing vine up to 23' long
- Grows up to 6" per day
- Stems, leaf stalks, and veins are covered in recurved prickles
- Stems are delicate and highly branched; green to reddish-green in color
- Dead, brown stems can persist through winter



Mile-a-minute dies at the first frost each year, leaving behind dried stems. It regrows each spring from seed.

UGA1149039

Leaves:

- Alternate, toothless, triangular, 0.75-3" wide
- Saucer-shaped leaf surrounds the stem at base of leaf stem and base of flower
- Barbed on the underside



Young growth has arrow-like appearance



Saucer shaped leaf

UGA5273095

Flowers:

- Small, white, inconspicuous
- Borne on short stalks off of saucer-shaped leaves
- Blooms late spring-early summer

Fruit:

- Small, round, 0.2" in diameter
- Borne in clusters
- Immature fruit is green; turns blue when mature
- Each fruit contains a shiny, black or reddish seed (2 mm wide)
- Produces fruit continuously until the first frost, when the plant begins to die back



Habitat:

- Forest, edge, meadow, roadside, yard

Commercial Availability: Not found

Look-alikes:

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)

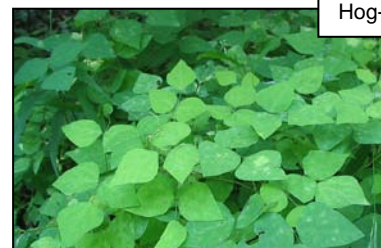
- Invasive vine
- Speckled purple to blue fruits
- Leaf is lobed & serrated, unlike mile-a-minute



Porcelainberry's leaf is very different from mile-a-minute

Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*)

- Native annual vine, climbing to 3'
- Each leaf has 3 leaflets- may appear somewhat triangular, sharply point tip
- Flowers are pink-white, 3/8"



Hog-peanut