Porcelain berry is a highly invasive, deciduous, woody, climbing vine in the grape family. It can kill trees, reduce property values and impact forests.

Porcelain berry’s prohibited status means it’s found only in a few places but spreads aggressively and can potentially cause significant environmental or economic harm or is a human health hazard. It is illegal to buy, possess, transport, transfer and introduce prohibited species into Wisconsin.

Why it’s a problem

- Grows quickly and can twine up to 25 feet high on trees, killing them or increasing wind and ice damage.

- Climbs over vegetation, shading out shrubs and trees.

- Spreads by birds and animals dispersing seeds and re-sprouts after being cut. New seedlings emerge for several years.
**HOW TO IDENTIFY**

**LEAVES** have several lobes and have a heart-shaped base and coarsely toothed edges. Leaf underside has small hairs.

**FLOWERS** bloom mid-summer and are greenish-white and inconspicuous.

**FRUIT** appears September-October as hard berries, up to 1/3” with small spots. They form in broad, upright clusters. Colors vary during maturation from green, white, pink, lavender, blue. Fruit flesh is white.

**BARK** has raised, light dots called **lenticels** and fibrous, large and branched. The root is woody, fibrous, large and branched.

**HOW TO TELL LOOKALIKES**

Native grapes (Vitis spp.) are also climbing woody vines but the **BARK** shreds when mature and lacks lenticels. Stem pith is brown. **FRUIT** are green, black, or purple and watery.

Native Virginia creeper also climbs, and can blanket other plants, but the **BARK** differs, as stems can be red in autumn.

**MECHANICAL CONTROL**

- Carefully hand pull small vines from trees and uproot small plants. Be aware that pulling on vines can damage trees.

- For vines too large to pull out, cut them near the ground. If not treated they will re-sprout and will need to be cut repeatedly. All control treatments will likely need to be repeated.

- If the plants are pulled or cut while in fruit, fruits should be bagged and disposed of in a land-fill to prevent spread of seeds.

**CHEMICAL CONTROL**

- Follow all herbicide label instructions. Apply a systemic herbicide, glyphosate (eg. Roundup) or triclopyr (eg. Garlon) 20% solution on freshly cut stumps. Or apply a 20% solution of triclopyr mixed in bark oil all around the base of the stem, in a band about six inches wide near the ground, in autumn.

- Spray leaves during the growing season, using a broadleaf herbicide to retain grasses and avoid creating large dead zones. Caution must be taken to avoid killing other plants. All control treatments will likely need to be repeated.