

Porcelain berry

(*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)



Legal Classification in Wisconsin: Prohibited Invasive Species

The largest known population of this species in Wisconsin has been found on the west side of Madison: Owen and Kettle Pond Parks and nearby neighborhoods. The time to control it is NOW!

Porcelain berry is a highly invasive, deciduous, woody, climbing vine in the grape family. It grows well in most soils, and in full sun to partial shade.

This plant can kill trees and reduce property values & impact forests.

- Grows quickly and can twine up to 25' high on trees!
- Climbs over vegetation, shading out shrubs and trees.
- Invades open, edge and wooded habitats.
- Spreads by birds and mammals dispersing seeds.
- Resprouts after being cut, and new seedlings may emerge for several years.
- Increases the possibility for wind and ice damage to trees.



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How to identify:

- **LEAVES** are simple and alternate, with a heart-shaped base and coarsely toothed edges. Leaves may be entire or have 3-5 palmate lobes or be deeply dissected. The underside of leaves have small hairs.
- **FLOWERS** bloom mid-summer and are greenish-white and inconspicuous. They form in broad, upright clusters.
- **FRUIT** appear September-October. They are hard berries, 1/4" to 1/3" with small spots. Vary in color from green, white, pink, lavender and blue. Fruit flesh is white.
- **BARK** has raised, light dots called lenticels and does not peel. Older vines have flaky, fissured, brown or grayish bark. Inner stem tissue is continuous across nodes.
- **ROOT** is woody, fibrous, large and branched. Roots can re-sprout.

How to distinguish from lookalikes, native grapes and Virginia creeper:

Native grapes (*Vitis* spp.) are also climbing woody vines, but...

- **BARK** shreds when mature and lacks lenticels. Stem pith is brown.
- **FRUIT** are green, black, or purple and watery.
- **LEAVES** more often entire, but can be lobed.

Native Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) also climbs, and can blanket other plants, but...

- **BARK** differs, as stems can be red in autumn.
- **FRUIT** are purplish blue berries.
- **LEAVES** are palmately compound, made up of five serrated leaflets that droop slightly on the vine.



Dan Danut



Leonora (Ellie) Enking

Madison City Parks & Engineering and others in the community are already implementing control work to preserve the natural beauty of our local parks.

***Join your neighbors in protecting our parks & your yard!
If you find this vine on your property, we ask you to take several steps:***

1. Report the location (address and place in your yard), as well as your name, phone, and email address to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov or call Jason Granberg at 608-267-7758.
2. Begin control efforts if you are able. Please see instructions and tips below.

If you are unable to control it yourself but are willing to allow a contractor to access your property for control, please fill out the attached permission form and return it to the address on the form. WDNR has a grant to conduct this control work this winter, and can pay for contractor costs.



How to control porcelain berry on your property:

MECHANICAL

- Carefully hand pull small vines from trees and uproot small plants. Be aware that pulling on the vines can damage trees.
- For vines which are too large to pull out, cut them near the ground. If not treated (see below), they will resprout and will need to be cut repeatedly.
- 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

•Follow all herbicide label instructions.

- Do a cut-stem or stump treatment by applying a systemic herbicide, glyphosate (eg. Roundup) or triclopyr (eg. Garlon) 20% solution on the freshly cut stumps.
- Conduct a basal bark treatment in autumn by applying 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.
- Spray leaves during the growing season, using a broadleaf herbicide to retain grasses and avoid creating large dead zones.

Notes: Caution must be taken to avoid killing other plants.

All control treatments will likely need to be repeated.

Thank you for helping us protect Wisconsin's natural areas and prevent the spread of porcelain berry to our woodlands and wetlands.
