

## **INVASIVE NON-NATIVE VINES**

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Non-native invasive vines are plants that were introduced to Maryland from other countries. All of these vines grow aggressively and shade out native wildflowers, shrubs, young trees of the forest understory, eventually killing them. Since they have no native competition or predators they will transform the healthy, “open” appearance of our woodlands into a dense, impenetrable tangle.

**DO NOT PLANT THESE VINES IN YOUR YARD AND IF YOU ARE NEXT TO WOODLANDS PLEASE CONTROL THEIR SPREAD FROM YOUR YARD.**

**ENGLISH IVY** (*Hedera helix*) grows over all understory plants and up trees. These weighty evergreen vines will eventually engulf trees and pull them down. It spreads along the ground and occasionally by seed.

**JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE** (*Lonicera japonica*), including Hall's honeysuckle, has gold-and-white flowers with a sweet scent in June. It is a rampant grower that spirals around trees, often strangling them. The Japanese cultivar easily hybridizes with its native American cousin, which is not invasive.

**WISTERIA, CHINESE AND JAPANESE** (*Wisteria sinensis*, *W. floribunda*) is known for its fragrant purplish flowers and smooth vines. The large, woody vines can overwhelm and pull down a large tree. These non-native varieties have largely out competed the native American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*), which is less aggressive.

**WINTERCREEPER** (*Euonymus fortune*) is a fast, growing evergreen, climbing vine well suited for fencerows and natural screens. While less aggressive than English ivy, allowed to escape into naturalized areas, this shade tolerant plant will quickly establish itself as a dominant plant species.

**VINCA, PERIWINKLE** (*Vinca minor*) is an evergreen, creeping groundcover with attractive purple blooms. While appropriate for landscaped yards it is very invasive in woodland areas and will overtake native groundcover.

**ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET** (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is an aggressive climbing vine that has almost completely displaced American bittersweet (*C. scandens*). The Asian version has flowers and bright orange seed capsules in clusters all along the stem, while the native species bears them only at the branch tips.

*See back of sheet for recommended native vine alternatives for your yard and gardens.*

## RECOMMENDED NATIVE ORNAMENTAL VINES



**AMERICAN BITTERSWEET** (*Celastrus scandens*) is an attractive woody vine that bears greenish spring flowers and orange-red seed capsules in the fall. It is distinguished from the non-native variety by flowers and seeds present only at the branch tips. It has been almost completely displaced by the Asian species. To preserve it, give it preference, except where its exotic counterpart is present, because the two readily hybridize.

**TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE** (*Lonicera sempervirens*), a semi-evergreen twining vine with tubular red flowers that attract hummingbirds. It is uncommon but indigenous to Maryland and the piedmont region.



**TRUMPET VINE** (*Campsis radicans*) is a climbing woody vine with dark green compound leaves with 7-11 serrated leaflets and dramatic red tubular flowers. The plant is common to Maryland and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

**NATIVE WISTERIA** (*Wisteria frutescens*), much less aggressive than the introduced ones, can be grown from Maryland south. (Not pictured)

**VIRGIN'S BOWER** (*Clematis virginiana*) is small climbing woodland vine with beautiful white summer blooms. It is easily confused with sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis terniflora* or *Clematis paniculata*), an invasive Asian vine that has escaped from gardens. Virgin's bower leaves have jagged teeth. Sweet autumn clematis has rounded leaves, which are mostly untoothed.



**VIRGINIA CREEPER** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is a drooping palmately-leaved vine with spectacular red fall foliage. It has good wildlife value and is very suitable for woodland gardens. (Not pictured)