

Porcelain Berry

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

DESCRIPTION

Porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) is a deciduous, woody, climbing vine in the grape family (Vitaceae) often found in open areas and forest edges. It spreads quickly in areas of full to partial sun and may reach lengths of 25 feet.

Dark green, heart-shaped, alternate leaves have serrated edges and vary from slightly lobed to deeply bisected. Greenish-white, flat-topped clusters of flowers bloom in summer, followed by clusters of two to four seeded fruits. The fruits are speckled in appearance, beginning pale lilac, then turning green and maturing into a bright blue. Fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals but are poisonous to humans.

WHY IS IT BAD?

Porcelain berry can quickly spread into native plant communities, displacing the native vegetation. Plants will climb up and over other vegetation, blocking access to light. This smothers trees and can kill them.



DISTRIBUTION & SPREAD

It has an extensive root system and a large taproot. The plant will resprout from any pieces of root left in the soil. Seeds are eaten by birds and other small animals, and through their droppings, they are dispersed in other areas. Seeds may remain viable for several years.

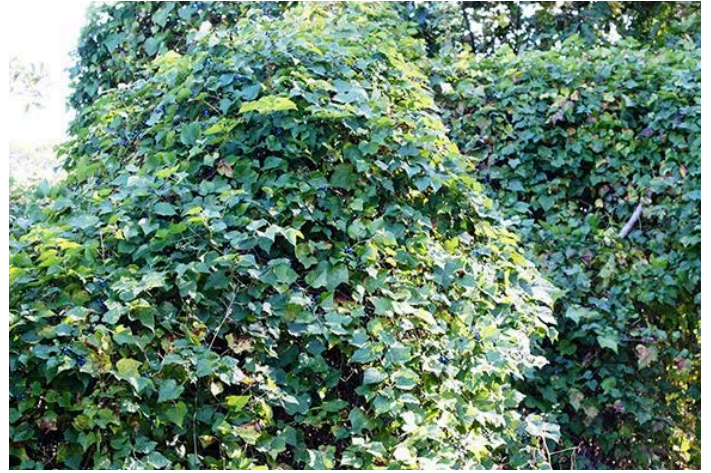
CONTROL METHODS

Porcelain berry plants flower on new growth, so hand-pulling in the spring can help control them. Remove larger vines with a shovel. If the plant is allowed to produce fruit, try to remove them before they have a chance to mature. Be sure to dispose of any fruits in the garbage rather than in a compost pile.

Chemical controls may be needed in large areas of infestation. *Carefully read the label; the label is the law.*



To learn more about invasives in Medford, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/02155Invasives>



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