

Invasive Species Reference

Terrestrial Invasive Plants

Invasive Strike Force:

Intermediate Species

2018



**LOWER
HUDSON**
PRISM

Look-alikes



1.

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Glossy Buckthorn •••••

Frangula alnus

Native Range: Europe, western Asia, northern Africa



2.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Leaves | Leaves have no teeth and 8-9 pairs of secondary veins which curve towards the leaf tip. |
| 2. Bark | Young bark appears greenish brown which ages to have light color blotches and raised white spots. |
| 3. Spines (not pictured) | Spines grow along the twig but not at the tip of the branch. |



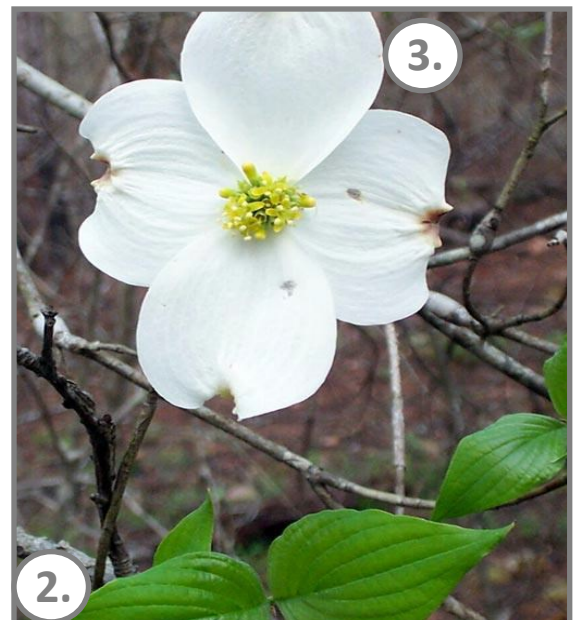
1.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Dogwood •••••

Cornus spp.

Native Range: Throughout much of the United States



3.

2.

David Stephens, Bugwood.org

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Bark | Smooth grey bark matures to blocky appearance in some species. |
| 2. Leaf | Leaf has no teeth and can be shiny, but is lighter in color than Buckthorn. |
| 3. Flower | Very showy flower with 4 petals |
| 4. Twig (not shown) | Branching is opposite. |

ALT

Tree 20'
☀️ ☀️ 💧

Invasive

Black Alder, European Alder ●●●●●●●●●●

Alnus glutinosa

Detailed ID Notes:

Flowers: June-July

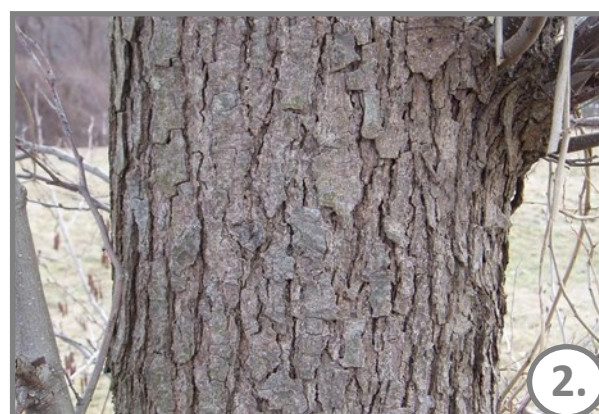
Fruits: October

Native Range: Europe, northern Africa and western Asia.

How to ID: Look for a tree with smooth, dark brown bark, which may have some fissures with age. The leaves are leathery with rounded bases and an indent or notch at the tip. Margins of the leaves are serrate with variable teeth.



Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Leaves | Roundish leaves that grow alternately on the branch, often having an indent or notch at the leaf-tip when mature. Underside of the leaf is sticky when young. |
| 2. Bark | Bark is smooth and greenish-brown when young. Mature bark develops deep fissures and plates revealing lighter inner bark. |
| 3. Growth | Roots grow very quickly, often leading to surface root mats. Grows either as a single stem tree or multi-stemmed shrub. |
| 4. Twig | Older branches have white lenticels (dots on the bark) while young twigs have buds that are clearly stalked. |
| 5. Fruit | Catkins appear similar to cones and grow on a long stalk. |
| 6. Habitat | Always found near water or location with high water table |

Look-alikes



Richard Webb, Bugwood.org

Leatherleaf Viburnum ●●●●●●●●●●

Viburnum rhytidophyllum

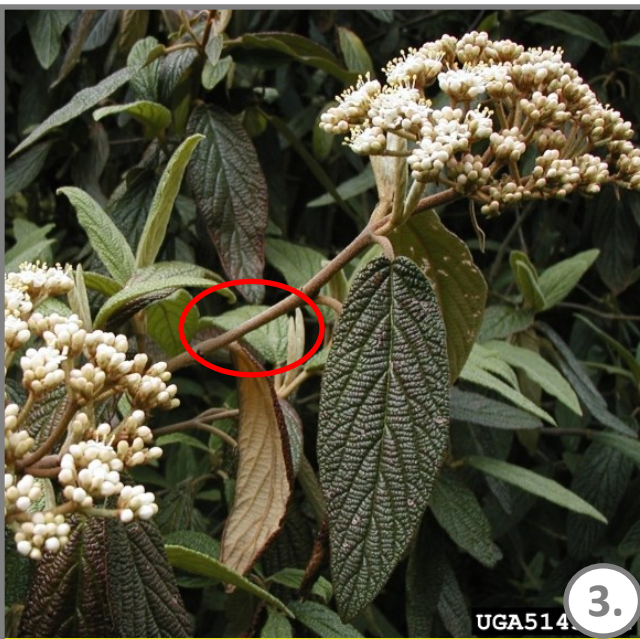
Flowers: Mid-May

Fruits: Ripens in September

Native Range: Central and western China



Dow Gardens , Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org



Dow Gardens , Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●

| | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1. | Leaves | Also oppositely arranged, Leatherleaf viburnum is evergreen, individual leaves are hairy with a very wrinkled leaf surface and have no teeth. |
| 2. | Flower | Flower is similar and may not be used as an key ID characteristic. |
| 3. | Stems | Stems are and twigs are also hairy. |

Look-alikes



1.

Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



2.

James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Privet

Flowers: April-June

Fruits: July-March

Distribution and habitat: Thrives in well drained soils and disturbed areas.

Native Range: Parts of Europe and Asia

How to ID: Look for a semi-evergreen shrub up to 20 ft. with trunks that occur as multiple stems and have many long, leafy branches. Leaves are always opposite and lanceolate.

Quick ID:

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 1. | Leaf | Opposite, leathery oblong leaves that end with a pointed tip. |
| 2. | Fruit | Globe-shaped, glossy drupes that turn to black as they ripen. |



1.

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Bush Honeysuckle

Diervilla lonicera

Growth: Deciduous Shrub

Flowers: May-June

Fruits: June-Aug

Native Range: Woodlands, mixed forest edges throughout the region. More common in dry woods. Uncommon in NY-NJ.







2.

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1. | Fruit | Small, red berry |
| 2. | Leaves & Flower | Leaf margins toothed, sometimes ciliate. Flowers turn red with age and found in groups of 3-7. |
| 3. | Twig (not shown) | Twig has a pith, not hollow. |

ALT

Shrub  10'
  

Invasive



1.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Privet

Ligustrum sp.

Flowers: April-June

Fruits: July-March

Distribution and habitat: Thrives in well drained soils and disturbed areas.

Native Range: Parts of Europe and Asia

How to ID: Look for a semi-evergreen shrub up to 20 ft. with trunks that occur as multiple stems and have many long, leafy branches. Leaves are always opposite and lanceolate. Border Privet has foul-smelling downy white flowers with anthers as long as the petals.



2.

Richard Webb, Bugwood.org



4.

James H. Miller, USDA Forest Ser-

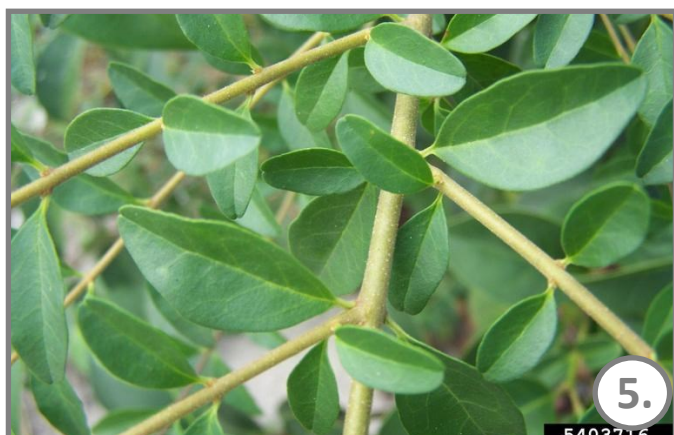


3.

James H. Miller, USDA Forest

Quick ID:

| | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1. | Flower | Many small, white flowers appear in cone-shaped branching clusters |
| 2. | Growth | Evergreen shrubs that can reach 30 ft. in height. |
| 3. | Fruit | Globe-shaped, glossy drupes that turn to black as they ripen. |
| 4. | Leaves | Left: Chinese privet Right: Glossy privet. Always opposite and varying degrees ovate. |
| 5. | Leaves | Opposite, leathery oblong leaves that end with a pointed tip. |



5.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Look-alikes

Arrowwood Viburnum

Viburnum dentatum



Troy Evans, Great Smoky Mountains



Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

- 1. Leaves** Leaves are more deeply toothed and lack the elongated leaf tip of *R. scandens*
- 2. Fruit** Dark blue fruit grows in clusters

Linden Viburnum

Viburnum dilatatum

Quick ID:

- 1. Leaves** Leaves are fuzzy and shallowly toothed
- 2. Fruit** Fruit is a red berry which grows in flat-topped clusters which ripen in September



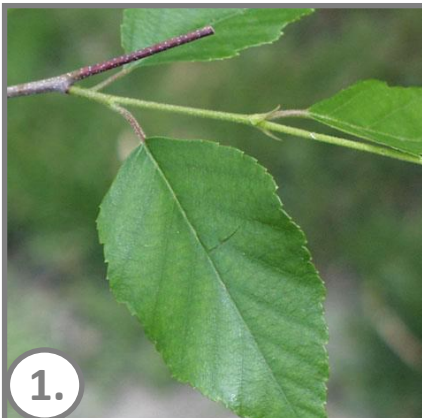
Doug Manning, National Park Service, Bugwood.org



University of Connecticut Plant Database, <http://hort.uconn.edu/plants>, Mark H. Brand, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, Storrs, CT 06269

Birches

Betula spp.



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org



Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

- 1. Leaves** Birches all have alternate branches although the shape varies based on species.
- 2. Growth** All birches grow as trees and have lenticels (off-colored spots or lines) on the bark which may or may not peel.

OPP

Vines



Invasive

Porcelain Berry



Ampelopsis brevipedunculata

Flowers: May-August

Fruits: September-October

Native Range: Russia, China, Korea, Japan

Distribution and Habitat: Found in moist woods, thickets, and floodplains in the southern part of the region.

How To ID: Look for a woody vine with branched tendrils. They have lenticels that are continuous across the nodes. Alternate leaves are simple, heart-shaped and have coarse teeth along the margins. There's variance in the leaves, from slightly lobed to significantly dissected. It also has a notable white pith unlike other native berries. These plants also have a strong, starchy odor resembling corn.



1.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



2.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



3.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Fruit | Flesh is white, and white outer layer turns blue or purple as they ripen. |
| 2. Leaves | There are hairs present only on veins and not on the leaf surface. |
| 3. Flowers | Green-to-white inconspicuous flowers develop in small clusters and bloom mid-summer |
| 4. Pith (not shown) | The pith is white, unlike native berries that are brown. |

Ecological Impacts: These vines form in dense mats, climbing over native vegetation, reducing available light to other plants. Seeds are dispersed widely by animals and birds that ingest the fruit. It is most invasive to disturbed edges, gaps and riparian areas.

Look-alikes



1.

Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Native Grapes

Vitis Spp.

Flowers: May-June

Fruits: Aug-Nov

Native Range: Throughout the region

Distribution and Habitat: Most native species are found in forests, thickets, and streambank habitats.

How To ID: There are around 8 different species of native grapes that resemble porcelain berry.

Characteristics in their climbing habits, presence of tendrils, leaf shape and small yellow-green flowers may be resemblances between these species. Native grapes have varying degrees of hairiness. Flowers and fruits are always arranged in elongate inflorescence.

Quick ID:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Fruit | Ranges from green to black to purple. The flesh of the grape is watery, but not white. |
| 2. Leaves | If hair is present, it will be on the leaf surface |
| 3. Growth | Peeling or shredding in narrow papery shreds occurs in mature vines. |
| 4. Pith (not shown) | Pith on all grape species is brown. |



2.

Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Ecological Value: Native grapes are a valuable summer wildlife food. Wild grapes are eaten by at least 45 species of birds within our region. Many mammals favor grapes as a staple during the summer. Box turtles also favor native grapes in addition to their usual diet. The vines provide nesting cover for many birds, with the strips of bark often being utilized for nest construction.



3.

Ansel Oomman, Bugwood.org

OPP

Vines



Invasive

Black swallow-wort •••••

Vincetoxicum nigrum

Flowers: May-July

Fruits: September

Native Range: Northern and southwestern Europe

Distribution and Habitat: It occurs in disturbed locations, forest edges, forests, meadows and fields, shores, rivers, or lakes. It requires moist soils, and will grow in shaded areas.

How To ID: Look for a vine with oval leaves that have pointed tips and occur in pairs along the stem. The leaves are 3-4 inches long, and 2-3 inches wide. Star shaped flowers have five purple-black petals and have white hairs. These flowers grow in clusters where the leaf stem meets the vine. Their fruits are slender, green to brown, and packed with seeds attached to puffy fibers.



1.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



2.

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



3.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



4.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Quick ID: •••••

| | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Growth | Herbaceous twining vine with hairy stem |
| 2. | Flowers | Usually tiny purple-black 5-petaled flower about 1/4" wide that grow in small clusters where the leaf stem meets the vine |
| 3. | Fruit | Long, green seed pods reminiscent of milkweed pods |
| 4. | Leaves | Dark, opposite shiny, long-pointed leaves |

Hint: Leaves are rounder than the Hardy Kiwi (ACAR) with a wavy, gently serrated edge. Native bittersweet will have similar fruit and flower clusters but on the tips of branches, not along the stem. However, there are reports of hybridization between the two.

Look-alikes

Slender Bush Clover

Lespedeza virginica

Quick ID:

| | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 1. | Flower | Purple/white flowers occur in dense clusters along the leaf axils. |
| 2. | Leaves | Leaves similar to <i>L. cuneata</i> but with a stem longer than the individual leaf also lacking bristle tip |



1.

James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, Bugwood.org



2.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Hairy Lespedeza

Lespedeza hirta

Quick ID:

- | | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 1. | Leaves | Leaves are broad and round, growing in groups of 3 along the stem |
| 2. | Flower | Flowers in dense, spiky clusters |



1.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



2.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Korean Clover

Kummerowia stipulacea

Quick ID:

| | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 1. | Leaves | Round, distinctly "clover like" leaves in groups of 3. |
| 2. | Form | Spreads out in branches, often has large, papery stipules. |



1.

Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



2.

Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org