

Weed Information Sheet:

Virginia creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

AKA: woodbine

Vitaceae (Grape family)

Identification:

Common Perennial vine

Height: 6-24"

Width: 6-30'

Leaf Arrangement: alternate

Flower: Green

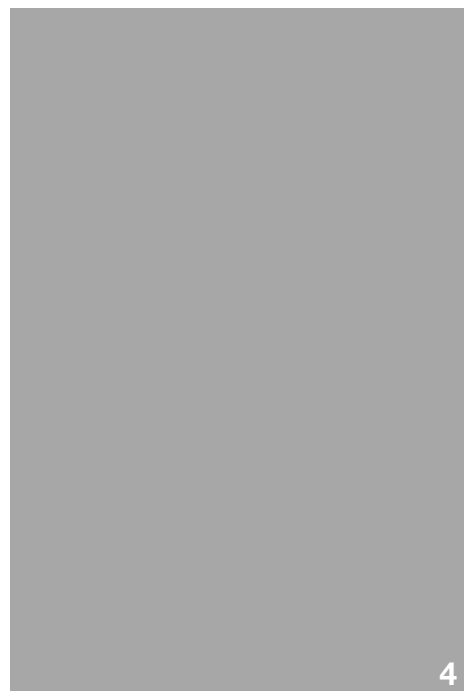
Blooms: Early summer to Mid-summer

Fruit: Dark blue

Fall Color: Red, Burgundy

A native woody vine in the grape family, Virginia creeper has compound, five-lobed leaves which radiate out from a central point. They have small green flowers that are typically pollinated by small solitary bees. They have dark blue berries that are not as palatable to humans as grapes, but are still highly valued by wildlife.

Two species native to Wisconsin are commonly referred to as Virginia creeper and are generally not distinguished except by close examination. Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) has adhesive disks at the ends of the tendrils whereas thicket creeper (*P. inserta*) lacks adhesive disks, simply rambling among and over other vegetation.



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RED HEAD Ecological Consulting

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Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Habitat:

This species is often most abundant in slightly disturbed environments and semi-shade, but is adaptable to many conditions.



Description & Impact:

This woody vines can become aggressive at times, especially in degraded woodlands, savannas and shrublands. In pre-settlement times, regular wildfires would have kept these species in check. In the absence of fire the vines can grow massive in size, smothering shrubs and ground layer vegetation, and even climbing into the tree canopy, shading out and harming their host trees. The thick vines also make it difficult to clear brush and sometimes even just move through natural areas. Nearly a dozen species of insects feed on the foliage, making Virginia creeper another important component of our ecological community.

Control Methods:

Manual: Virginia creeper vines often grow along the soil surface and/or are very shallowly rooted. So simply carefully pulling the vines and tracing them around the area is a good way to eliminate small populations such as in a garden

Chemical: For climbing Virginia creeper plants, cut the vine as close to the ground as possible and treat the stumps with concentrated mixture of herbicide such as glyphosate (Round-Up®, etc.) or an oil-based solution of triclopyr (Garlon® 4, Brush-B-Gone®) to prevent resprouts.

Always read herbicide labels carefully before use and apply according to the instruction on the product label.

Citations: <https://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/taxa/index.php?taxon=4437>