

Porcelain-berry Fact Sheet

Porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) was originally brought to the United States around the 1870's as a landscape plant. Porcelain-berry is now recognized as an invasive plant, which can quickly overwhelm and displace native plants. The vigorous vines of porcelain-berry out competes trees and shrubs by reducing the availability of light, water, nutrients and space. It has already invaded and destroyed native vegetation in the Delaware landscape. It also spreads by seed and through layering. Without your help, porcelain-berry will continue to spread.

What is porcelain-berry, and what should does it look like?

A deciduous, woody, perennial climbing vine; often with deeply lobed, grape-like leaves, which are sometimes variegated. Both the underside of the leaves and the young twigs are hairy to the touch. Tiny greenish-yellow blooms in mid-summer are followed by clusters of shiny, hard berries in various shades of white, yellow, lilac, or green that mature to a bright turquoise blue. It grows well in dry or moist areas, especially along forest edges, pond margins, stream banks and waste places, from full sunlight to partial shade. It also is less tolerant of heavily shaded areas and permanently wet soils. It closely resembles native grapes, such as fox grape.

How can I distinguish between porcelain-berry and fox grape?

Porcelain-berry

- Pith (center portion of stem) is white and continuous across the nodes
- Bark has lenticels (light dots) and does not peel
- Flowers are greenish-yellow fading to white with free petals occurring in cymes opposite the leaves from June through August. A cyme is a flat-topped flower cluster with the innermost flowers opening first.
- Fruits are a hard berry approximately ¼ inch in diameter, berries are colorful, changing from pale lilac, to green, to a bright blue from September through October, all colors may occur at the same time
- Leaves have three to five lobes that are sometimes variegated. Mature leaves are deeply lobed with toothed edges



Porcelain-berry

Fox Grape

- Pith is brown and **not** continuous across the nodes
- Bark does **not** have lenticels and peels or shreds
- Flowers are green with petals that touch at tips and occur in panicles. A panicle is an elongated flower cluster, broad at the base, tapering toward the tip
- Fruits are a juicy berry approximately ¾ inch in diameter, berries are purple to dark blue, from August through November
- Leaves have three lobes with toothed edges



Fox Grape

How can I control the spread of porcelain-berry?

Hand pulling of vines in the fall or spring will prevent flower buds from forming the following season. Plants should be pulled up by hand before fruiting to prevent the production and dispersal of seeds. Manual control is difficult because the extensive root system cannot be eradicated. Be aware that the roots could be entwined with the roots of desirable species, which could be damaged when porcelain-berry is pulled out by its' roots. If hand pulling is not feasible, porcelain-berry may be controlled by spot application of a glyphosate herbicide to individual plants. Glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide (an herbicide that kills all exposed vegetation) and should be used according to the label. Avoid contact with desirable plants. Herbicide treatment is most effective when applied toward the end of the growing season when plants are actively transporting nutrients from the stems and leaves to the roots. Cut stems may also be treated with a systemic herbicide (an herbicide that is absorbed by a plant and carried throughout the tissues). Follow up treatments for both manual and chemical control will be needed for several years until one no longer sees porcelain-berry. **Always Read The Entire Pesticide Label.**

References:

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Denny Ariola, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ((Fox Grape)
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