

August

Invasive of the Month



Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)

Similar to many other invasive species porcelain berry, also known as amur peppervine, was brought to the US in 1870 through the ornamental trade. Native to Japan and Northern China, these vines' multicolored berries made it a popular backyard plant. However, it quickly escaped cultivation and is now invasive across much of the Eastern United States.

How to Identify

This woody, deciduous, vine looks very similar to the native grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*) that grows here in North Carolina. While it can be tricky to differentiate the two there are some key identification factors you can look for. The most obvious trait of porcelain vine are the multicolored berries that appear in the late summer, growing in a variety of colors including cream, turquoise, blue, purple, and magenta. The leaves have a heart shaped base with 3-5 lobes and are coarsely serrated. The bark of the porcelain vine is medium brown with deep fissures, whereas the bark of the grape vine is usually shaggy and peeling. Additionally, the pith of the porcelain vine, the inner wood, is white whereas the pith of the grape vine is brown.

Invasive Species Program

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