



# Weed Warrior Volunteer Program

## Common Vines (Native and Non-Native, Invasive)

Friends of Sligo Creek Meeting

May 25, 2021

Corinne Stephens

Senior Natural Resources Specialist

Weed Warrior Volunteer Coordinator

Montgomery Parks

[Corinne.Stephens@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Corinne.Stephens@montgomeryparks.org)

[www.WeedWarrior.org](http://www.WeedWarrior.org)





# Non-Native, Invasive Plant (NNI)

A plant that evolved in another part of the world (introduced intentionally or accidentally to our area), **which is capable of spreading rapidly, causing ecological or economic harm or is a threat to human health.**

kudzu covers a bush



bush honeysuckle covered in porcelainberry







# Native Plant

A native plant is a part of the balanced natural system that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem. Native plants and animals that have evolved together often depend on one another for survival and reproduction.

Ironweed/Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*)

Virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*)



Wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*)





# Weed Warrior Volunteer Program

[www.WeedWarrior.org](http://www.WeedWarrior.org)

- Created in 1999
- 690 Certified Weed Warriors (currently)
- Empowers community members to help Montgomery Parks staff manage NNIs on parkland
- Volunteers taught to ID and manage specific NNI species using BMPs
- Top priority = save trees from NNI vines
- Hand control methods only
- Coming Soon: restoration paradigm

this tree is a priority;  
let's conquer NNI vines before  
they are out of control







# Weed Warriors are Invaluable Partners

- It will take long-term dedication for us to recover from extensive NNI infestations; this effort starts by protecting our existing high-quality areas first and moving outward from there.
  - Stop the spread: Keep NNIs out of Parks and your gardens 😊
- The Montgomery Parks Natural Resources Stewardship team is small and dealing with NNIs is just one of our many tasks.
- The Regional Park Management staff also devote resources to NNI removal.
- Modest funding in recent years has enabled us to hire natural resources management contractors.
- Weed Warriors= Main boots on the ground, especially in the more urban watersheds



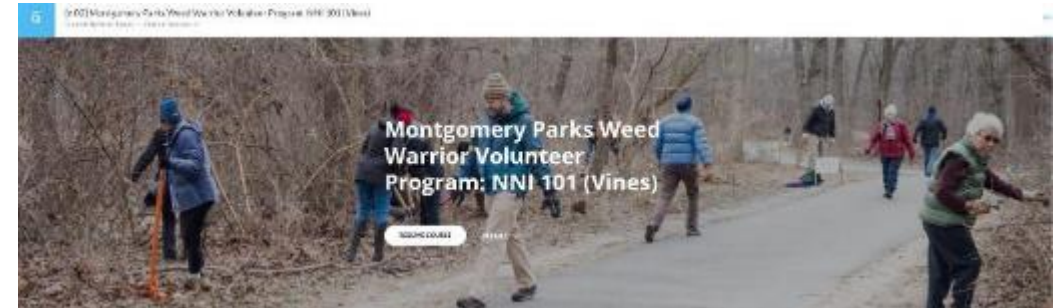
# Requirements:

## Level 1 Weed Warrior Certification

- [Email me](#) to get on the list and start your training!
- Complete the online e-course: The Basics
- Complete the online e-course: NNI 101 (Vines)
- Participate in at least 2 [Weed Warrior Workdays](#) (when they open back up)
- Attend a classroom training (same day as field training)
- Participate in a field training with Montgomery Parks Staff



E-course: The Basics



E-course: NNI 101 (Vines)



# E-Course Sneak Peak

- E-Course Topics Include (but aren't limited to):
  - Why we control NNIs
  - How to cut a window in vines
  - How to effectively pull a plant from the ground
  - How to use the approved tools
  - How to pick a site that won't be overwhelming
  - How to identify the NNI species that Weed Warriors are authorized to control
  - How to identify key native lookalike species
  - How to enter volunteer hours in our database
  - Pretty photos, fun videos, interactive sections
  - Safety reminders
  - Quizzes
  - **So much More!**



**Stems:** Perennial. Older bark looks split, but does not peel, as seen in this photo. The stems have a white pith.

## VIDEO: Cutting a "Window" in Vines



### Video transcript:

When controlling hanging non-native invasive vines like Oriental bittersweet, Weed Warrior volunteers should remember that safety comes first.





# WW Priority NNI Species list

## First Priority Species (Vines)

- English Ivy
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Mile-a-Minute
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Porcelainberry
- Wintercreeper



mile-a-minute leaf & barbs

## Second Priority Species

- Autumn Olive
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Garlic Mustard (flowering & not seeding)
- Japanese Barberry
- Multiflora Rose
- Wineberry



bush honeysuckle flower



flowering garlic mustard





# WW Priority NNI Species list

## Third Priority Species

- Bradford Pear seedlings
- Japanese Stiltgrass (small infestations only)
- Wavyleaf Basketgrass (small infestations only)
- Winged Burningbush/Euonymus



wavyleaf basketgrass



winged burningbush

## Fourth Priority Species

- Kudzu (small infestations only)
- Wisteria



wisteria





# NNI Vine

## English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

- Perennial evergreen, grows year round
- Found in forests or on forest edges and openings, especially near homes (right photo!!)
- Climbing vine (carpets ground, attaches to/grows up trees)
- Easy to identify, even in the winter!



Tree cages covered in E ivy are priorities for WWs!







# NNI Vine

## Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

- Semi-evergreen, opposite egg-shaped/ oval-shaped leaves
- Invades forests (edges and interior), fields, wetlands, roadsides
- Twines tightly around other plants (often climbs to the top of a tree before putting out leaves)
- Younger leaves are sometimes lobed like an oak leaf!
- Stem has a hollow pith (center) when cut & older bark is papery-looking

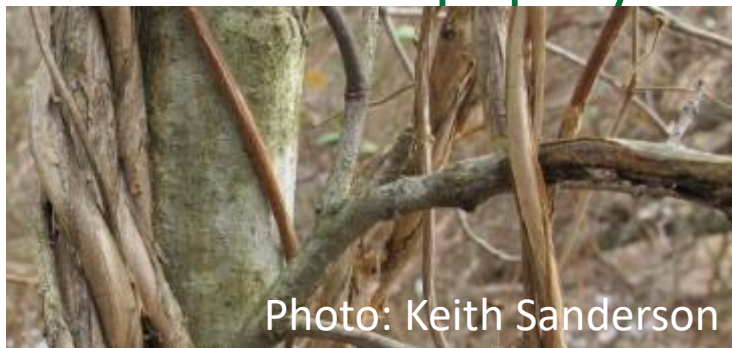


Photo: Keith Sanderson



Photo: Bugwood.org

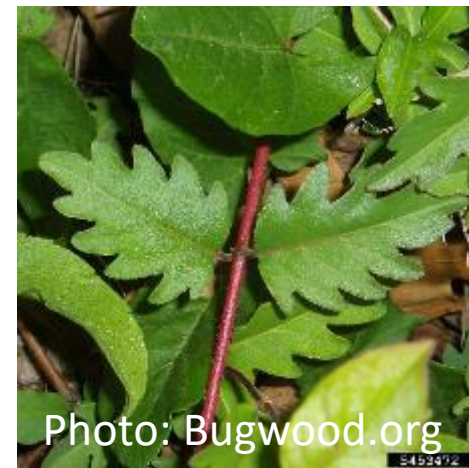


Photo: Bugwood.org





# NNI Vine

## Kudzu (*Pueraria montana v. lobata*)

- Semi-woody, deciduous, perennial
- Leaves are alternate & compound with 2-3 lobed (or not) leaflets
- Grows well in a variety of soil types and conditions, making it extremely invasive.
- Climbing, vigorous, grows into thick layers of vegetation and smothers native plants by blocking sunlight, girdling, or strangling
- Over 30 stems can originate out of a single root!



Photo: Bugwood.org

5483269



Photo: Bugwood.org

100811 6/2/29



Photo: Bugwood.org

0024031 6/2/29







## NNI Vine

# Mile-a-Minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)

- Annual, spread by seeds (~6 year seed bank)
- Found in fields; forest edges; roadsides; wet areas; streambanks; sunny, disturbed sites
- Can completely cover other plants since it grows quickly by scrambling over trees, shrubs, and other vegetation
- Can grow 6 meters in length in a single growing season!
- Leaves are triangular, alternate, light green
- Stems are covered in tiny downward-facing thorns!





# NNI Vine

## Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

- Deciduous
- Often found in fields and along forest edges, old hedgerows, forest gaps
- Twisting, twining, and climbing woody vine
- Spreads by seeds that are dispersed to new areas by birds and humans (often in decorative wreaths)
- Orange-colored roots







# NNI Vine Porcelainberry

*(Ampelopsis glandulosa var. brevipedunculata)*

- Leaves are deciduous and alternate; shape is extremely variable
- Sprawls over trees, shrubs, fields, streambanks, wood edges, hedge rows, fencelines, and roadsides. Can also sprawl along the ground when there is nothing present for it to climb.
- Climbs via tendrils from the leaf base
- Fruit is hard and colorful; upright clusters
- Older bark looks split, but does not peel







# NNI Vine

## Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)

- Perennial evergreen, grows year round
- Commonly found in forests or on forest edges and openings; tolerates a broad range of environmental conditions
- May grow in a shrub-like form or by trailing along the ground with thin warty stems, before climbing a tree
- Fruits are small, round, pinkish to red capsules that split open to show fleshy arils
- Easy to identify, even in the winter!







## NNI Vine

# Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) and Japanese Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)

- Perennial and woody
- Spreads well in many habitats: forest edges, disturbed areas, riparian areas, roadsides, ditches, ROW, etc. Often found near old homesteads b/c planted for pretty flowers
- Can grow > 70 feet high/long; climbs, twines, or trails on the ground & sometimes looks like a shrub. "Pulls" tightly on the host tree
- It's in the pea family!







# Common Native Vine

## Native Grape (*Vitis spp*)

- Found throughout Sligo Stream Valley!
- Flowers and berries are in drooping/hanging clusters (the most reliable difference from porcelainberry; wait for it!)
- Stem pith is brown (porcelainberry's pith is white and easier to see on younger stems).
- Mature bark is paperlike (shreds in strips/can be peeled)



Photo: Keith Sanderson



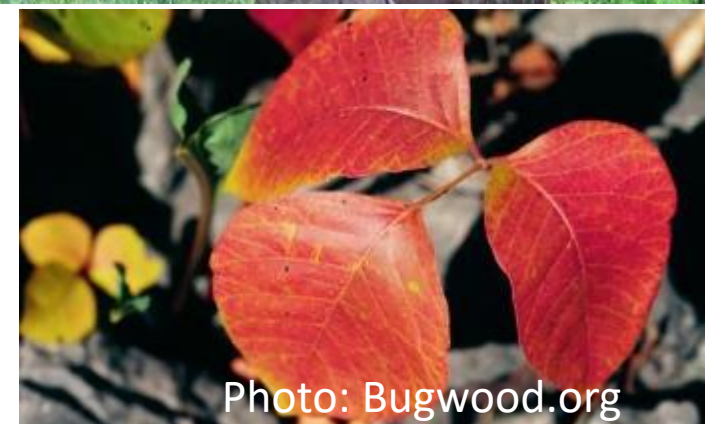




# Common Native Vine

## Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

- Found throughout Sligo Stream Valley!
- Each deciduous leaf is composed of three leaflets (leaves of three, let them be!)
- Berries are nutritious for wildlife!
- Mature vines on a tree become thick & hairy
- Often develop extensive branches that look like the branches of the tree
- If you feel the poison ivy is in an area where it may cause human harm (ie: on a playground) [report it](#) to Parks Customer Service!



<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/poison-ivy>

Photo: Bugwood.org





# Common Native Vine

## Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

- Found throughout Sligo Stream Valley!
- Another woody, deciduous vine
- Its leaves include 5 leaflets, which is the best way to identify it
- Climbs with adhesive “frog feet” pads



Photo: Bugwood.org

5369240



Photo: Bugwood.org

5474400



Young growth!





# Plant Identification Resources

## ***Online Field Guides:***

- [Mistaken Identity-Invasive Plants and their Native Lookalikes: An Identification Guide for the Mid-Atlantic](#)
- [Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](#)
- [Common Non-Native, Invasive Plants- MD DNR printable cards](#) (print and fold into cards)

## ***Plant Identification Websites and Apps:***

- [Wildflower Identification Website](#)
- [A Community for Naturalists \(iNaturalist\)](#)
- [Seek Phone App by iNaturalist](#)
- [Leafsnap: An Electronic Field Guide and Free Phone App](#)

## ***Local Facebook Discussion Groups:***

- [Invasive Plant ID & Removal Facebook Group:](#)  
Moderated by Certified Weed Warrior, Keith Sanderson
- [Capital Naturalist Facebook Group for the Washington, DC area](#)



porcelainberry berries

\*\*\*Please note, these links are not produced or moderated by Montgomery Parks\*\*\*



# Corinne Stephens

Senior Natural Resources Specialist  
Weed Warrior Volunteer Coordinator  
M-NCPPC, Department of Parks,  
Montgomery County

[Corinne.Stephens@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Corinne.Stephens@montgomeryparks.org)

[www.WeedWarrior.org](http://www.WeedWarrior.org)

Parks Boundaries website: <https://mcatlas.org/parks>



***Please contact me for more info or to say hello!***