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PORCELAINBERRY

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), also known as Amur peppervine, is a deciduous, woody, climbing vine native to temperate regions of Asia. It was brought to the US in the late 1800s as an ornamental plant, mostly due to its attractive purple, blue, white, and green fruits, which resemble small porcelain balls. It is still available to purchase online.

Porcelainberry resembles native grape vines. It has alternate, simple, 3-5 lobed (sometimes deeply) leaves, non-adhesive tendrils for climbing, and clusters of tiny, greenish-white flowers. It can be differentiated from grapes by its non-peeling bark, white pith (grapes have tan), and of course, by its brightly colored fruits in the late summer and fall.

Porcelainberry's vigorous growth allows it to quickly smother native trees, shrubs, and saplings. It eventually shades out sunlight and kills the plants underneath, and reduces species diversity. The extra weight of the vines also makes trees more vulnerable to wind damage. Its fruits are attractive to birds, small mammals, and even white-tailed deer and thus, are easily spread to new areas. It can tolerate most soils, allowing it to invade forest edges, pond edges, stream banks and disturbed areas.

The best way to prevent infestations is to avoid planting porcelainberry. Once established, it is difficult to control. It is recommended to cut vines to the ground and treat the stumps with a systemic herbicide like triclopyr or glyphosate (check label instructions), and further spot treat any resprouts. A combination of repeated mowing and herbicide treatment can be effective to control large infestations of porcelainberry.

QUICK FACTS

- Native to temperate Asia
- A climbing, woody vine
- Leaves alternate with 3-5 palmate lobes
- Brightly colored clusters of fruits that resemble small porcelain balls
- Spreads easily by birds and small mammals
- Resembles native grape vines

