

August Invasive Plant Highlight

Porcelain-berry



What is Porcelain-berry?

Porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis glandulosa* var. *brevipedunculata*) was introduced to the U.S. in 1870 as an ornamental landscape plant due to its stunning fall berries in speckled shades of pink, blue, lilac and purple. Despite its beauty, it has become an aggressive invasive vine in 11 Northeast states including Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC.

Sadly, it is still used in the horticultural trade. The ornamental A. brevipedunculata 'Elegans' is often recommended as a landscape plant.



Porcelain-berry with blooms

Porcelain-berry is also called Amur peppervine, Porcelain berry, and Porcelainberry. It is a deciduous, woody vine native to Japan and Northern China. It can climb to heights of more than 20 ft and form dense mats. The alternate leaves are heart-shaped or deeply lobed (3-5 divisions) with coarse teeth along the margins. The pith (center) of a cut stem is white and the bark has lenticels (small spots) and does not peel. Native grape, which porcelain-berry resembles, has a brown pith and a bark that shreds. Flowering occurs in mid-summer, when greenish to white, inconspicuous flowers develop in small clusters.

Porcelain-berry spreads by seed and through vegetative means. The colorful fruits attract birds and other small animals that eat the berries and disperse the seeds in their droppings. The seeds of porcelain-berry germinate readily to start new infestations.

Please Remove It!

If you find Porcelain-berry in your yard, please remove it. Hand pulling of vines in the fall or spring will prevent flower buds. Vines should be pulled up by hand before fruiting to prevent the production and dispersal of seeds. **If the plants are pulled while in fruit, the fruits should be bagged and disposed of in a landfill.** For vines too large to pull out, cut them near the ground and either treat cut stems with systemic herbicide or repeat cutting of regrowth as needed. The taproot of porcelain-berry is large and vigorous. Re-sprouting will occur in response to cutting of above-ground portions.



Ripe berries on Porcelain-berry

Information about Porcelain-berry:

<https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wgw/porcelainberry.pdf>

<https://fairfaxgardening.org/porcelain-berry/>

Why Native Plants?

As open space disappears, it is necessary to look at our own landscapes for biodiversity. Native plants promote the unique relationships between our native plants and animals, from the smallest microorganisms, insects and other invertebrates to birds and mammals.

Native plants, from grasses and wildflowers to towering shade trees, form the base of the food chain. Our native insects are uniquely adapted to eat native plants; some are generalists and can eat a variety of plants, but many are specialists that can only digest certain types of leaves based on the chemistry of the plant.

Research by the entomologist Doug Tallamy has shown that native oak trees support over 500 species of caterpillars whereas ginkgos, a commonly planted landscape tree from Asia, host only 5 species of caterpillars. When it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees, that is a significant difference.

[More information on native plants:](#)

www.vnps.org/natives

www.plantnovanatives.org

www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder

www.audubon.org/native-plants

[More information on invasive plants:](#)

www.invasiveplantatlas.org

www.invasive.org



Native Virginia Bluebells

Who We Are?

The City of Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team restores the local ecosystem in city parks. We remove damaging invasive plants then re-plant with natives that benefit our local birds, butterflies, bees, and pollinators.

We are a community task force that supports the City's Green Space department. We have monthly events in the Fall and Spring open to volunteers.

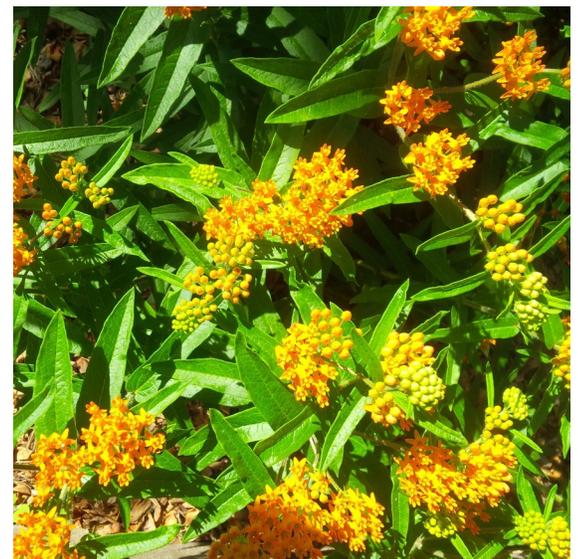
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Native Butterfly Weed