

New Invasive Vine in Orange County!

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Originally published in the [Fall 2025 Orange County SWCD Conservation Connection newsletter](#).

Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis glandulosa* var. *brevipedunculata*)

In late 2024, SWCD Invasive Specialist Emily Finch documented a new invasive plant in Orange County, Porcelain Berry. This invasive vine was discovered growing in Paoli at Marea Radcliff Rest Park, right on Lick Creek. With help from the Orange County Invasives Partnership, Finch plans on returning to the site and controlling this small population. Area residents can help by looking out for Porcelain Berry, and reporting any suspected plants. As a new invasive, early detection and response can help prevent it from spreading further.

What is Porcelain Berry?

Porcelain Berry is a deciduous, woody, climbing vine. While related to native grape vines, it is from Asia and was introduced to the US as an ornamental plant. Originally Porcelain Berry was only found in the eastern US, but in recent years it has been reported in multiple Midwest states. Vines form thick mats which can cover and shade out native shrubs and young trees. It grows and spreads quickly in areas with high to moderate light, such as forest edges and stream banks, and vines can grow up to 15 feet in a single growing season.

What does it look like?

Porcelain Berry is known best known for its bright colored berries which appear in late summer and fall. Groups of small speckled berries range in color from green, white, pink, lavender, and blue. They are hard and have white flesh. Leaves are simple and alternate, with coarsely toothed margins. The leaf shape varies from heart-shaped (similar to other grape leaves) to deeply lobed (similar to highly lobed mulberry leaves). Look for coarse hairs on young twigs and on the underside of leaves along the veins. Plants bloom in mid-summer, but the flowers are green-white and not very showy. The bark differs from native grape vines by having light dots called lenticels, and bark that does not peel. If you cut a stem its center, or pith, will be white.

Native Lookalikes

The closest lookalike in the southern Midwest is native **Raccoon Grape (*Ampelopsis cordata*)**, which has nearly identical leaves and fruit. The easiest way to distinguish these species is look for hairs on the young twigs and underside of leaves, which only the invasive will have. Don't use the pith to distinguish this species, since it is in the same genus as Porcelain berry they will both have white pith.

Native Wild Grapes (*Vitis* spp.) may also look similar, but their bark shreds when mature, lacks lenticles, and stem pith is brown. Fruit will be green when immature, black or purple when mature, and watery instead of hard.

More Resources:

If you think you've found Porcelain Berry in Orange County, please email Emily.Finch@in.nacdnet.net or call/text 812-329-0048. You can see where Porcelain Berry has been reported, and submit reports of new populations at www.eddmaps.org or using the EDDMaps app.

For more info on Porcelain Berry, including how to control it, visit <https://woodyinvasives.org/woody-invasive-species/porcelain-berry/>, you can browse more photos of Porcelain berry at <http://www.namethatplant.net/plantdetail.shtml?plant=75>. More info on Raccoon Grape at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/raccoon-grape>.

Porcelain Berry Factsheets:

Factsheet from Vermont: <https://vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/factsheets/PorcelainberryTreatmentSheet.pdf>

Factsheet from Wisconsin:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Invasives/PorcelainBerryFactSheet.PDF>



Photo 1: Porcelain Berry growing in Paoli, photo taken by Emily Finch.



Photo 2: Porcelain Berry growing in Paoli, notice the hairs present on the stem, leaf petiole, and leaf veins on the underside of the leaf. While the amount of hairs can vary, the native racoon grape will not have any hairs. Photo taken by Emily Finch.

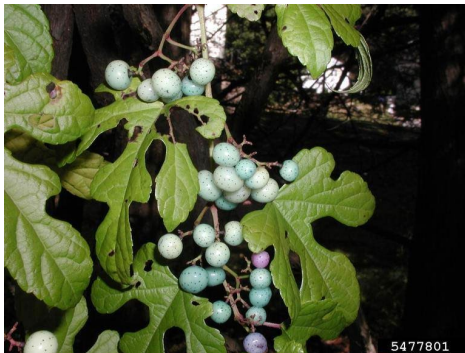


Photo 3: Porcelain berry with highly lobed leaves. Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.



Photo 4: NATIVE lookalike Raccoon Grape, photo by Brenda Loveless via the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (wildflower.org).