

**Black Swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*)**

**Also called:** Dog strangle vine, Louise’s swallow-wort, *Cynanchum nigrum*, *Vincetoxicum nigrum*

**Family name:** Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 - Rare (may be locally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Herbaceous, perennial, twining vine
- Grows to 6’ long
- Stem is unbranched
- Stems and seed pods can persist through winter

**Leaves:**

- Opposite, toothless
- Shiny, dark green
- Oval to lance-shaped
- 2”-5” long and 0.5”-2.5” wide



**Flowers:**

- Dark purple or brown clusters of 6-10 flowers
- Clusters are produced opposite each other
- Blooms May-July
- 5 petals are fleshy and triangular with short straight, white hairs on upper surface

**Fruit:**

- Occur in tapered seed pods, 1.5”-3” long
- Immature pods are green; brown when mature
- Individual seeds are brown and flat with a tuft of white hairs



**Habitat:**

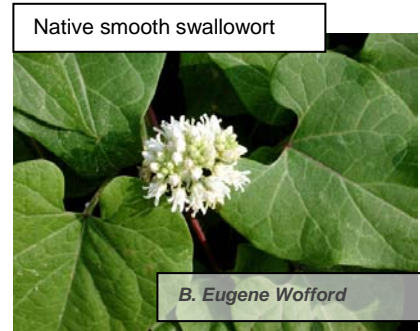
- Forest, edge, floodplain, wetland

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Smooth swallowwort (*Cynanchum laeve*)**

- Native, perennial twining vine
- Large clusters of white flowers
- Leaves have a distinct heart-shaped base
- Fruit contained in pods, similar to milkweed pods
- NOTE: There are no records of Smooth swallowwort in NJ, but there are records from neighboring states



**Pale swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*)**

- Highly invasive, twining, perennial vine
- Leaves are opposite, dark green, shiny
- Blooms June-July
- Flowers are pink to reddish, 5-petals, star-shaped clusters
- Fruit contained in pods, similar to milkweed pods
- Invades upland areas with a wide range of light and moisture conditions



**Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)**

- Highly invasive twining, vine or groundcover
- Semi-evergreen
- Opposite, simple dark, lustrous green leaves
- White tubular flowers
- Small, black fruit

