

**Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)**

**Also called:** Mile-a-minute knotweed, Asiatic tearthumb, Devil's tail, *Persicaria perfoliata*

**Family name:** Knotweed (Polygonaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 - Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General Description:**

- Herbaceous, annual, climbing vine up to 23' long
- Grows up to 6" per day
- Stems, leaf stalks, and veins are covered in recurved prickles
- Stems are delicate and highly branched; green to reddish-green in color
- Dead, brown stems can persist through winter



Mile-a-minute dies at the first frost each year, leaving behind dried stems. It regrows each spring from seed.

UGA1149039

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, toothless, triangular, 0.75-3" wide
- Saucer-shaped leaf surrounds the stem at base of leaf stem and base of flower
- Barbed on the underside

Saucer shaped leaf



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Young growth has arrow-like appearance



**Flowers:**

- Small, white, inconspicuous
- Borne on short stalks off of saucer-shaped leaves
- Blooms late spring-early summer

**Fruit:**

- Produced July-November
- Small, round, 0.2" in diameter
- Borne in clusters
- Immature fruit is green; turns blue when mature
- Each fruit contains a shiny, black or reddish seed (2 mm wide)
- Produces fruit continuously until the first frost, when the plant begins to die back



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, meadow, roadside, yard

**Commercial Availability:**  
Not found

**Look-alikes:**

**Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)**

- Invasive vine
- Speckled purple to blue fruits
- Leaf is lobed & serrated, unlike mile-a-minute



Porcelainberry's leaf is very different from mile-a-minute

**Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*)**

- Native annual vine, climbing to 3'
- Each leaf has 3 leaflets- may appear somewhat triangular, sharply point tip
- Flowers are pink-white, 3/8"

Hog-peanut

