



## CONTROLLING VIGOROUS FLORIDA PANHANDLE VINES

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# Difficult to Control Native Vines

*Smilax* species (12 in Florida and 9 in the Panhandle)

*Vitis rotundifolia* (Wild muscadine grape)

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia Creeper)

*Toxicodendron radicans* (Poison Ivy)

# Does a Magic Bullet Exist?

- The simple answer is no
- Do the right thing
- Kudzu in KY and TN
- Can one person make a difference?

# Basic Plant Parts

- Apical bud removal encourages lateral bud growth
- Rhizomes are underground stems with both types of buds

# What Makes Something Invasive?

## Invasive Species Terminology<sup>1</sup>

- Native: a species that occurs naturally in a specified geographic location.
- Nonnative: a species that does not occur naturally in a specified area.
- Introduced: a species brought to a new geographic area intentionally or unintentionally by humans.
- Established: A species having a self-sustaining and reproducing population in a specified geographic areas without human intervention (can be native or nonnative).

# What Makes Something Invasive?

## Invasive Species Terminology

- Invasive: A species that (a) is nonnative to a specified geographic areas, (b) was introduced by humans (intentionally or unintentionally), and (c) does or can cause environmental or economic harm or harm to humans.
- Nuisance: an individual or group of a species that causes management issues or property damage, presents a threat to public safety, or is an annoyance. Can apply to native and nonnative species.

# What Makes Something Invasive?

## Invasive Species Terminology

- **Noxious:** any plant or plant product that can directly cause damage to crops, livestock, poultry, or other interests of agriculture, irrigation, navigation, natural resources, public health, or the environment.
- **Prohibited:** a species determined injurious to humans or human interests.
- **Range Change:** the circumstance of a species' current/existing range growing, shrinking, or shifting over time. This change can happen to native and nonnative species with or without human assistance.



# Smilax

- Native vines
- Fast growth habit (15' this spring)
- Spreads by underground stems (rhizomes)
- Spreads by seeds
- Parts are edible



# Smilax

- Removal is very difficult
- Mowing shoots doesn't work
- Clip and remove from trees and fences to prevent fruiting (wear heavy leather gloves and eye protection)
- Digging up rhizomes is almost impossible, possible in small areas
- Cut and spray new above ground growth with non-selective herbicide, careful not to spray non target plants



# Wild Grape Vine

- Native vine
- Vines are dioecious (male or female)
- Wild type is mostly male
- Female will produce 4-10 fruit/cluster
- Fast growth habit
- Spreads by seeds and running along the ground
- Can cover host plant and can kill host plant



# Wild Grape

- Removal is difficult
- Digging up in small areas
- Clip and remove from trees and fences to prevent fruiting and smothering
- Cut and spray new growth flush with non-selective herbicide

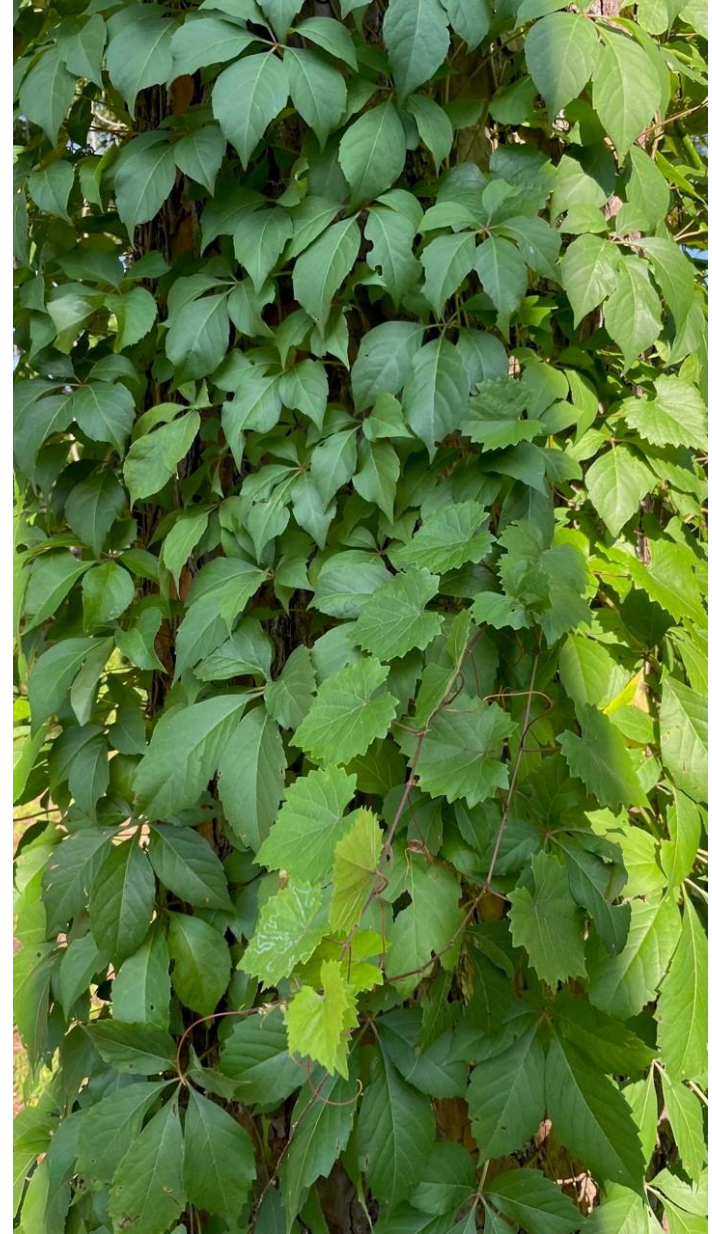


# Virginia Creeper

- Native vine with five leaflets
- Often confused with poison ivy
- Spreads by seeds and running along the ground
- Can cover tree trunk
- Ornamental vine
- Red fall color



Poison Ivy



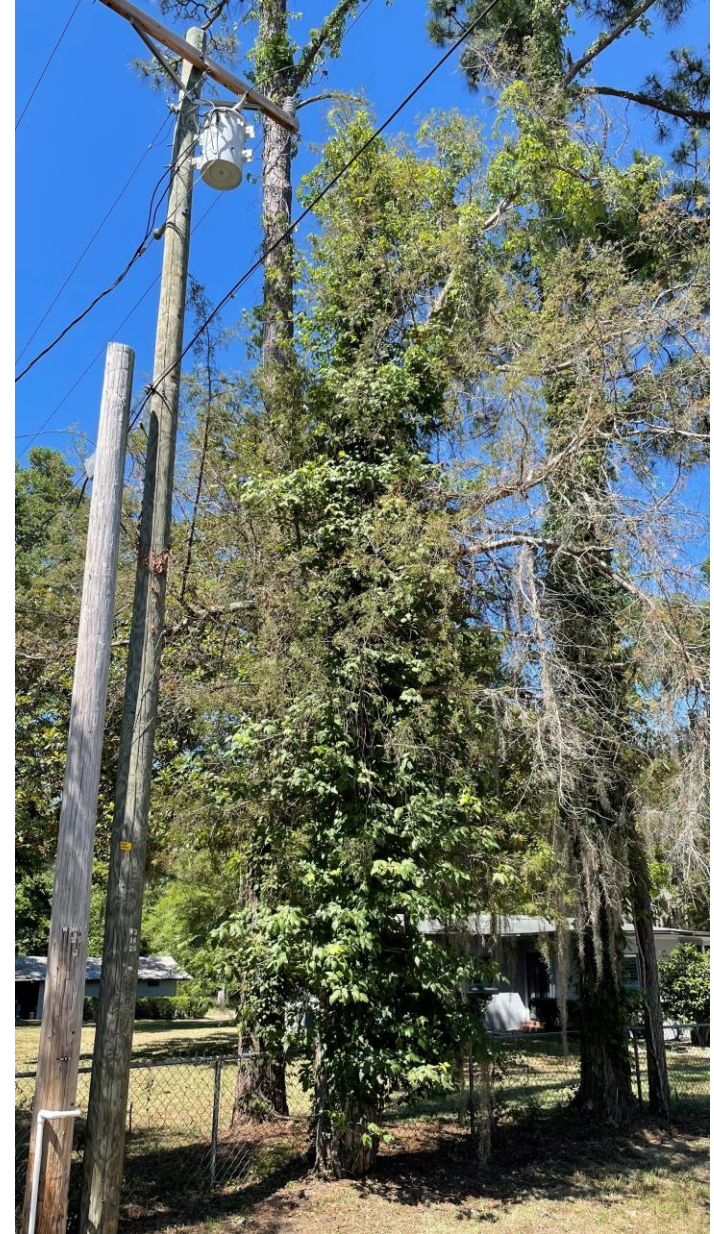
# Virginia Creeper

- Removal is medium
- Clip and remove from growing up trees when young
- Cut and spray new growth flush with non-selective herbicide
- Vines will run along the ground, pull young stems up



# Poison Ivy

- Native vine with three leaflets
- Spreads by seeds and underground rhizomes
- Can cover tree trunk and climb tree
- Poisonous to most humans because of the urushiol oils



# Poison Ivy

- Removal is difficult and dangerous
- Wear PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) resistant to oil absorption
- Clip and remove from growing up trees when young
- Cut and spray new growth flush with non-selective herbicide
- Do **NOT** burn debris, bag and dispose





# Poison Ivy



# Control Will Take Patience and Dedication

- Removal will not happen over night
- Depending on the property size and extent to plant growth, removal may take several seasons
- Diligence afterwards as birds will spread seed back into your yard and you will never get every single piece

# Citations

- <sup>1</sup> Iannone, B.V. et al., 2020. Invasive Species Terminology: Standardizing Stakeholder Education. *Journal of Education*, 58, 3.
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<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/fr375>
- Smilax is a Vine that can be Difficult to Control.  
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# Citations

- Muscadine Grape Vines: Difficult to Control in Your Landscape.  
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- *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*: Virginia Creeper  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/fp454>
- Identification of Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, Poison Sumac, and Poisonwood. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP220>