

# Chocolate Vine (*Akebia quinata*)

## **Identification:**

Chocolate vine is very recognizable, as it has up to 5 rounded leaves sprouting short petioles, resulting in a cartoonish mat of palmate leaves. Flowers are inconspicuous but fragrant, and bloom in spring varying from red to purple. Rarely, a fruit develops on a chocolate vine, which is purple with white flesh and small black seeds. The mature bark is brown, and the stem appears wiry, easily entangling itself in the surrounding foliage.



## **Habitat and Spread:**

Shade tolerance allows Chocolate Vine to suffocate forest understories that don't have a lot of sunlight. Similar to many of its fellow invasive vines, it climbs up small shrubs and trees, eventually shading out entire populations of native vegetation.

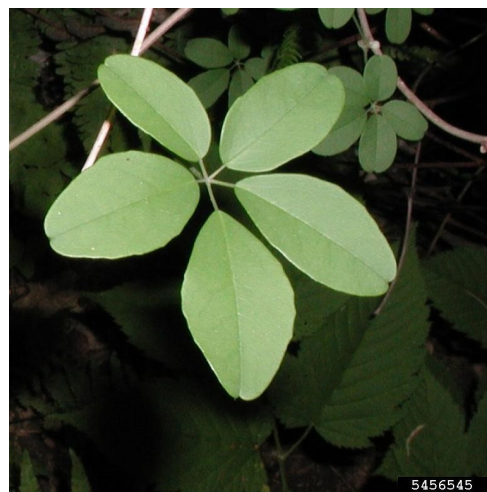


## **Management Techniques:**

Hand-pulling isn't the best option for this species since it usually appears in large tangled swaths, and since the stem is typically thin and erratic, and thusly the root very difficult to locate, a foliar spray of glyphosate applied selectively to the Chocolate Vine is likely the most effective method of removal.

## **Native Range and Original Introduction:**

Native to Eastern Asia, Chocolate Vine was first introduced as an ornamental to the United States in 1845.



Photos by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org