# 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.

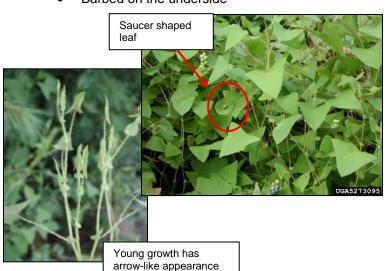
# **General Description:**

- Herbaceous, <u>annual</u>, 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



#### 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



#### 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 brevidepunculata)

- Invasive vine
- Speckled purple to blue fruits
- <u>Leaf is lobed &</u>
  <u>serrated,</u> 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 <u>3 leaflets</u>- may appear somewhat triangular, sharply point tip
- Flowers are pink-white, 3/8"

