

LEAST WANTED!

P L A N T 2 0 1 2

SWEET AUTUMN CLEMATIS *Clematis terniflora*



Sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis terniflora*), is known for its extremely rampant growth. It is capable of climbing to 25 feet in height or sprawling as a dense groundcover, choking out most other plants. Blooming from late August to October, the plant is grown for its aromatic, 1-inch diameter

white flowers which grow in terminal panicles that are dense enough to cover the foliage. The compound leaves have 3-5 oval to elliptic leathery leaflets that are shiny and able to persist through mild winters. It can aggressively self-seed and has escaped cultivation and become invasive, particularly in the

East and Midwest. In Kentucky, it is frequently found near abandoned home sites, at the edge of woodlands, and on fencerows. This species is synonymous with and is sometimes sold as *C. maximowicziana* and *C. dioscoreifolia*.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES



PASSIONFLOWER

This native passion fruit, purple passionflower or maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*), is a somewhat aggressive vine that will climb thickets and fences or spread across the ground. Vines reach up to 25 feet long and produce attractive 1.5 to 2.5 inch diameter purple and white flowers with a rather frilly appearance. Butterflies frequent the showy flowers. Leaves are generally deeply three-lobed and 4-5 inches across. The fruit is up to 3 inches long and yellow when ripe. The seed coat is edible. This species does best in full sun with adequate moisture.

DUTCHMAN'S PIPE

Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia macrophylla*) is a high-climbing woody vine native to the forests of southeastern Kentucky where it prefers moist, well-drained soil. Growing well in both sun and shade, it has large, heart-shaped glossy leaves and produces unusual 2-inch long flowers that resemble Dutch smoking pipes. Due to its fast growth and ability to grow to 30 feet, it needs a trellis or other climbing support. In addition to its ornamental attributes, it is a host plant for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly, adding to its value in the garden.

VIRGIN'S BOWER

Virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*), is a native, woody vine with clusters of showy white flowers blooming from mid to late summer. Similar to the Asian sweet autumn clematis, it has serrate leaves while the invasive look-alike has mostly entire leaves. The showy fruits have silky elongated styles, providing food and nest material for birds. Virgin's bower grows best in partial sun to partial shade, but will tolerate full sun if its roots are kept moist. A vigorous climber, it can grow to 20 feet long and may spread into surrounding areas due to self-seeding.

To heighten awareness of invasive plants that threaten Kentucky's native biodiversity, a Least Wanted plant will be featured in the Spring of each year with suggested alternatives.

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PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES TO INVASIVE LANDSCAPE PLANTS

