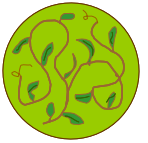




FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *AKEBIA QUINATA*
COMMON NAME: CHOCOLATE VINE
KNOWN TO OCCUR IN NC

WHAT IS CHOCOLATE VINE?

Plant Type: Perennial, deciduous or semi-evergreen woody vine.

Form/Size: Twining vine or groundcover, stem is slender, green when young, brown when mature; can form dense mats.



Leaves: Dull greenish-blue, alternate, palmately compound with 5 stalked leaflets 1.5 to 3 inches long with rounded and notched tip.

Flowers: Reddish, purplish-brown, 3 petals, 1 in. across, blooms in spring, sweet fragrance

Fruit: Large, soft, purple oblong pods 2.5 - 4 in. long with white pulpy core

and tiny black seeds, ripen in fall; rarely produced.

Means of Spread: Primarily through vegetative growth, up to 40 ft. in one growing season; when fruit produced birds may spread seeds, long distance movement mainly by human activity.

Family: Lardizabalaceae



WHERE DID CHOCOLATE VINE COME FROM?

Origin: Central China, Japan, Korea

Date of Introduction: 1845

Reason: Introduced as an ornamental, naturalized to warm climates



WHERE AM I LIKELY TO FIND CHOCOLATE VINE?

Habitat Type: Moist, light, and well-drained soils, sunny or partly shaded areas; forested, riparian, wetland, and urban habitats

Distribution in SC: No records

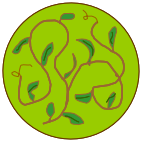
Distribution in NC: Limited, Orange and Madison Counties (Mountains and Piedmont)

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species



FRIGHTENING FACTS

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WHY IS CHOCOLATE VINE A PROBLEM?

Environment: -Displaces and smothers native plants reducing diversity and altering wildlife habitat structure.

-Climbing vine can kill taller canopy trees

-Dense, quick growth prevents germination and seedling establishment of native species.

Economy: -Control methods can be expensive and difficult for landowners and government agencies

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND CHOCOLATE VINE?

Report: take a photo, report the observation to EDDMapS: <http://www.se-eppc.org/> (location, size of infestation, etc.).

In SC: Send digital photo to Botanist John Nelson at the USC Herbarium:

plantman@herbarium.org for verification.

Control: For small infestations, use manual and mechanical removal (repeated for new growth); covering with mulch and cardboard with or without using chemicals first can work as well. Larger infestations can be treated with foliar herbicide.

Cutting and treating cut stems with a systematic herbicide is usually effective.

Disposal: Pulled material should be bagged prior to transport, and disposed of so as not to spread viable material.



CURRENT LISTINGS:

SC-EPPC: Watch B/Vine

NC-PPC/NC NPS: Watch list B

GA-EPPC: Category 4

LEARN MORE!

- Invasive.org (images):
<http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=10090>
- Natureserve:
<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Akebia+quinata>
- Plant Conservation Alliance:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/akqu1.htm>
- University of Connecticut Database:
<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/a/akequi/akequi1.html>

Prepared by Sudie Daves Thomas for SC-EPPC and Early Detection & Rapid Response System

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species