

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Virginia-creeper

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Found in fields and forests and in dry soils and wet, this native vine is one of the most widely distributed species in Virginia and is well established throughout the eastern United States. It can be a vigorous spreader, but its attractive foliage and low maintenance can make it a feasible option for difficult to grow—shady, droughty, low-fertility, erosion-prone—places.



Vine	Cover, Climber,* Spiller, Fruit, Fall Foliage
Height: 1 foot (as ground cover)	
Spread: 25–60 feet	
Bloom Color: Greenish-white	
Characteristics	
Climbing, woody, deciduous vine	
Alternate, palmately compound, serrated leaves; branched tendrils with holdfasts (adhesive disks)	
Clusters of unremarkable flowers June to August	
Green berries turn bluish-black Sept. to February	
Brilliant shades (best in sun) of red to duller wine foliage and bright red pedicels/peduncles in fall	
Spreads rapidly by above-ground rooting/sprouting	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay, loam, sand, dry, and rocky soil; heat, drought, flooding, and salt; no serious pests or diseases; deer occasionally severely damage	
Berries highly toxic and can be fatal if eaten	
Attracts various wildlife to fruit (esp. birds), cover	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	Excellent Replacement for
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	<i>Akebia quinata</i> - Chocolate Vine
Water Requirements: Dry, Moist (preferred), Wet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> - Oriental Bittersweet
Holdfasts adhere to surfaces, are tough to remove, leave residue, and can damage painted surfaces, shutters, gutters, and wires	<i>Clematis terniflora</i> - Sweet Autumn Clematis***
Allow room to grow; trim routinely to control spread	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> - Japanese Honeysuckle
Use to climb/sprawl on arbors, fencerows, stone or brick walls; as ground cover or bank stabilizer	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–8	*Note the holdfasts adhering the tendrils to the door frame.

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free (top), CT College Arboretum and by Elaine Mills, Glencarlyn & US Botanic Gardens and Sandbridge & Fairlington, VA



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