





Bigonia capreolata

Cross-vine

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

This semi-evergreen vine can cling to stone, brick, and wood without support. Found in forests and along roadsides mainly in the South,* its showy, two-tone flowers are an early nectar source for butterflies and hummers. Cross-vine refers to the cross-shaped pattern of the cut stem.



Vine	Flowers on Supported Vines and Close-ups	
Height: 30–45 feet	 	
Spread: 6–9 feet		
Bloom Color: Reddish, orange, yellow	 	
Characteristics		
Climbing, woody, semi-evergreen vine	Excellent Replacement for	
Climbs by means of clinging, branched tendrils w/ terminal holdfasts (adhesive disks), and twining	<p>Akebia quinata - Chocolate Vine</p> <p>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata - Porcelainberry</p> <p>Celastrus orbiculatus - Oriental Bittersweet</p> <p>Clematis terniflora - Sweet Autumn Clematis</p> <p>Jasminum dichotomum - Jasmine</p> <p>Lonicera japonica - Japanese Honeysuckle</p> <p>Wisteria floribunda & W. sinensis - Asian Wisteria</p>	
Opposite , compound leaves (paired ovate or elliptic leaflets w/ tendril in between) turn reddish-purple in fall; axils often w/ pair of small accessory leaves		
Axillary cymes of 2–5, fragrant, trumpet-like flowers — each red to orange corolla with 5 shallow lobes, sometimes yellow, curling backward—May to June		
Flat, green fruit capsules turn brown Aug–Oct		
Spreads rapidly by root suckers ; can run rampant		
Attributes	<p>*In VA, it is frequent to common in the southern and central Coastal Plain, southern Piedmont, and portions of the far southwestern mountains and rare elsewhere. It is native to NoVA except for Prince William County. In MD, it is reported in two counties, but primarily in Worcester County.</p>	
Tolerates shade, drought, brief flooding; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage		
Ethnobotanic uses	Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, mammals; larval host to ~2 lepidopterans incl. Rustic Sphinx	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	
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Images by Christa Watters, Simpson Gardens and by Elaine Mills (bottom left) & Mary Free (bottom right), Glencarlyn Garden