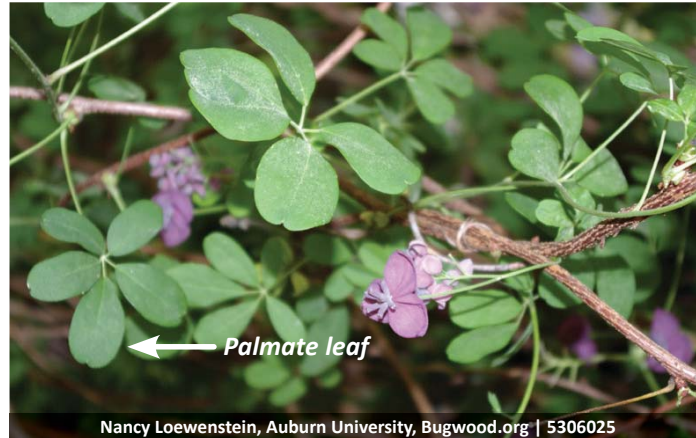


CHOCOLATE VINE

(Fiveleaf akebia)

Akebia quinata

Status in Maine: not yet detected



Description: Woody, climbing vine, that can also grow as a ground cover. **Leaves:** Alternate, distinctively palmately compound, usually with 5 leaflets; 4-7" across. Oval leaflets are 1¼-4" long and have notched tips. **Flowers:** Produces racemes containing both male and larger female flowers, to 1½" wide, fleshy, pale red to purplish brown. Flowers have a sweet scent described as chocolate-like. **Fruits:** ~4" long, sausage-shaped, pale purple pods. Inner white pulp contains up to 200 seeds. **Stem:** Grayish brown with distinct lenticels; can grow to 40'. **Roots:** Fibrous and shallow.

Native range: Japan, Korea, and China. **How arrived in U.S.:** Introduced in the mid-1800s as an ornamental.

Reproduction. Primarily by vegetative means. Roots can emerge from stem fragments and stem nodes on sprawling vines in contact with soil. Fruits, while not reliably produced in northeastern U.S., are attractive to wildlife and people.

Habitat: Although it prefers moist soils and partial sun, it can tolerate full shade and drought. Riverbanks, woodlands, forest edges, and disturbed areas are its principal habitats. Vines will form dense tangles and overtake other vegetation.

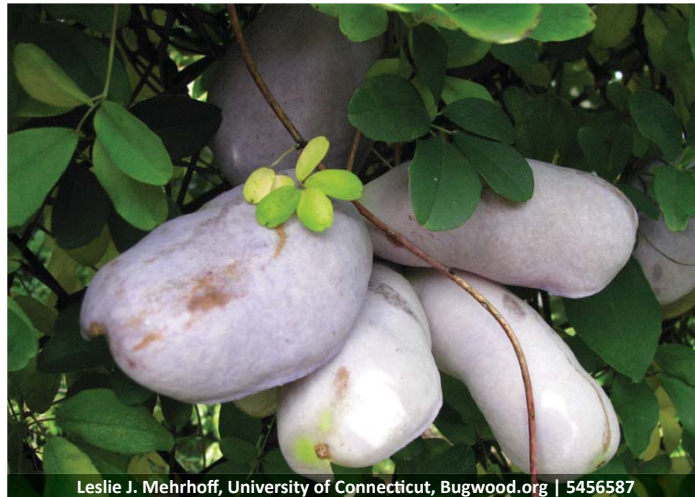
Similar native species: Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), has larger five-fingered leaves, toothed leaflets, and tendrils. Some members of the *Rhododendron* genus (e.g., clammy azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum*) have leaves that may appear as though they are palmately compound like chocolate vine.



CHOCOLATE VINE

Similar non-native species: Wisteria vines (*Wisteria* spp.) can have a similar growth habit and bark, but their leaves are pinnately compound.

Control methods: Vines can be hand pulled, rolled up, and hung to dry or bagged for disposal. Repeated cutting or weed whacking will work although monitoring for regrowth is essential. Because it often grows over desirable vegetation, herbicide application can be difficult. Foliar applications of glyphosate or triclopyr are effective. To kill larger vines growing up trees, cut stems near the ground and immediately apply glyphosate or triclopyr to cut stumps. ***Special rules apply to herbicide use in or near wetlands and waterbodies - see the section in the back of this guide titled "Use of Herbicides to Control Invasive Plants in or Near Wetlands and Waterbodies."***



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org | 5456587



Steve Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Bugwood.org | 5379481



C. Evans, Bugwood | 5377422