

Polygonum perfoliatum

Invasive to Maine

Mile-a-Minute Weed,
Devil's Tail, Tearthumb

Upland
Forests, Fields, Wetlands, and Developed Areas

Leaves



Leslie J. Mehrhoff



Look for triangular leaves that alternate and are 2 to 8 cm wide. The color of Mile-a-Minute Weed leaves are bluish to light green and have barbs on the underside.

| LEAF ARRANGEMENT | LEAF TYPE | LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE | LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ALTERNATE | SIMPLE | PALMATE | SMOOTH |
| OPPOSITE | COMPOUND-PALMATE | DELTOID | TOOTHED |
| WHORLED | COMPOUND-PINNATE | ROUND | WAVY |

Plant



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Look for an annual trailing vine reaching up to 7 m, growing over other vegetation.

Stem

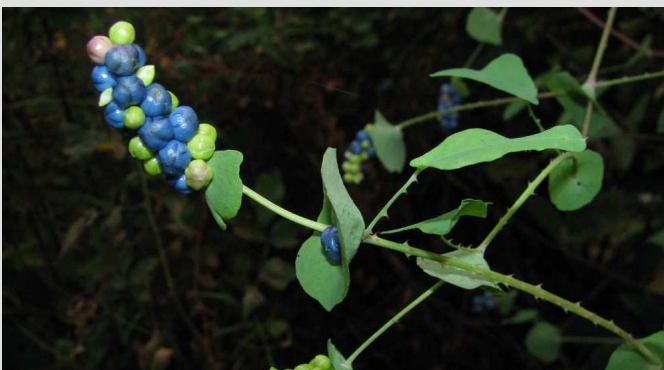


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Look for stems that are 4-sided and have rows of small rigid barbs.

Seasonal Change



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In the late summer look for clusters of berries that are bright blue and pea-sized.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

While there are other Polygonum species, the triangular leaf of the Mile-a-Minute weed is unique and unlike any of the other related species. Other Polygonum species have arrow-shaped leaves.

Fun Fact

The berries float which aids in its dispersal. Mile-a-Minute weed reportedly grows up to 15 cm per day!