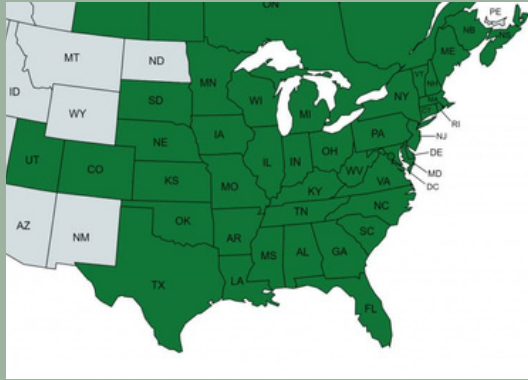


LaRC Nature Series



Map of the Virginia Creeper habitat range in the U.S.



The berries resemble purple grapes and contain tiny oxalate crystals. If eaten, they can cause irritation.

The flowers are small, green, and in clusters.

Virginia Creeper is often confused with Poison Ivy, but they are not related. Virginia Creeper has leaves in clusters of five, while Poison Ivy has clusters of three.

Leaves provide early fall color, turning a brilliant mauve, red, or purple.

The sap can cause skin irritation and blisters for certain people if it penetrates the skin.

VIRGINIA CREEPER

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
CLASS: Magnoliopsida
CONSERVATION STATUS: Least concern



The species is a native, fast-growing, perennial, woody vine that may climb or trail along the ground.

Virginia Creeper can grow up to 50 feet.

Virginia Creeper is also known as Woodbine or American Ivy.

Population

Virginia Creeper can thrive in any kind of soil, with any level of acidity. It is also tolerant to salt. As a result, the population remains stable.



Animals such as mice, skunks, and chipmunks will munch on the leaves and stems. Various birds will use its thick foliage for nests and coverage and will eat the berries.

For any wildlife-related concerns, please call the LaRC Environmental Office (Ade Remington) at 757-864-8332.

environmental.larc.nasa.gov

Data obtained from the National Wildlife Federation and the National Geographic.

Fun Facts