

MILE-A-MINUTE WEED

[*Polygonum perfoliatum* L.; *Ampelygonum perfoliatum* (L.) Roberty & Vautier;
Tracaulon perfoliatum (L.) Greene⁹]
POPE10



UGA1237070

Habit: Annual, shallow and fibrous-rooted, climbing vine^{4,15} to 6-8 m (20-26 ft);^{10,15} may behave as a perennial (with a tap root) in subtropical climates.^{12,15}

Reproduction: By seed;¹² perennials may root at the nodes.¹⁵

Leaves: Alternate, simple, entire, glaucous, and glabrous; with recurved prickles on lower veins and petioles;⁵ triangular in shape and bright to pale green in color (sometimes reddish when young); 3-8 cm (1³/₁₆-3³/₁₆ in) long and 5-9 cm (2-3¹/₂ in) wide; peltate with the petiole;^{3,4} sheathing stipule (ocrea) at petiole base encircles the stem (perfoliate).^{4,3,9,2,12}

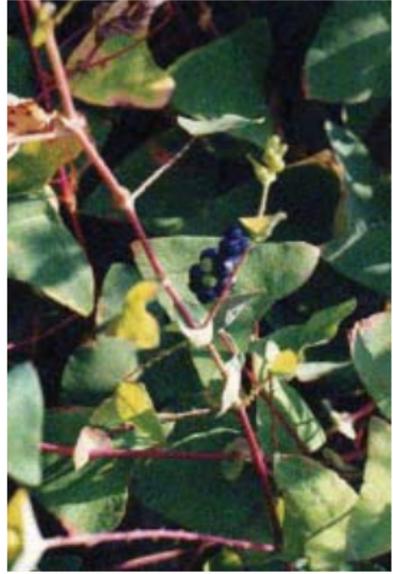
Stems: Wiry, slender, and armed with small, recurved prickles;^{2,8} climbing or reclining on other plants;¹² becoming reddish with age.^{8,15}

Flowers: Small (1.5 mm or ¹/₁₆ in);¹⁵ 10-15 in terminal or axillary spike-like racemes 1-2 cm (³/₈-³/₄ in) long; perfect, greenish-white to pink;^{4,12} bloom early summer to fall.^{6,5}

MILE-A-MINUTE WEED



UGA0581048



UGA0002111

Polygonum perfoliatum L.

Fruits/Seeds: Round, shiny, black achene;^{12,15} perianth 3-5 mm (1/8-1/4 in), persistent, thickening to a fleshy, berry-like, iridescent blue covering;^{4,12} water, bird, small mammal, and human dispersed;^{12,15,6} buoyant;^{2,12} dispersed July-November;^{9,12} germination mid-March to April;⁶ cold stratification may be required in colder environments^{1,8} but detrimental in warmer areas; scarification may promote germination;⁸ persistent seed bank for at least 3 years.¹³

Habitat: Native to E. Asia;^{2,4,6} introduced into the U.S. in 1890s¹⁰ near Portland, OR, with no local spread;¹³ found in Pennsylvania in the mid 1930s; along streams, in flood plains,¹² roadsides, disturbed sites (harvested forests), and open woodlands;^{7,11} possible preference for moist soils.⁵

Comments: Easily spread in nursery stock;⁵ relatively shade tolerant compared to native congeners;⁵ performs better in open areas;⁹ numerous native insects feed on it with little effect.^{9,14}

Similar Native Species: *P. sagittatum* and *P. arifolium*; leaves not glaucous, peltate, or triangular and ocreae not perfoliate.^{5,11,12}