

Vines of Central Texas

Jan Redden



Vines rely on other structures for support

They can be:

- Climbing or Prostrate
- Woody or Herbaceous
- Native or Introduced
- Food and/or shelter for wildlife, people

Jan and Dave's jungle





Unripe fruit



Mustang Grape

Species: *Vitis mustangensis*

Family: Vitaceae

- Aggressive
- Native
- High climbing woody
- On sandy soils, bottomlands
- Mature fruits: Summer
- Fruit is eaten by humans, birds and mammals



Underside of leaves is lighter



Various leaf shapes





Japanese Honeysuckle

Species: *Lonicera japonica*

Family: Caprifoliaceae

- Non-native
- Aggressive
- Flowers in March-June
- Mature fruits in Fall
- Moist soils of bottomlands, along streams and timber edges
- Fruit, flowers, leaves and stems are eaten by many animals







Passion Flower (Maypop)

Species: *Passiflora Incarnata*

Family: Passifloraceae

- Aggressive
- Native
- Clings to other plants by tendrils
- Host plant to zebra butterfly caterpillars, Gulf fritillary caterpillars, others
- Fruit is eaten by wildlife
- Fresh or dried whole plant used medicinally to treat nervous anxiety and insomnia



Zebra
caterpillars



Tendrils



Look for “thumb”



Poison Ivy

(Poison Oak)

Species: *Toxicodendron radicans*

Family: Anacardiaceae

- Native
- Grows in moist soils in forest understory
- Fruit: summer - fall
- Fruit is eaten by many birds
- Stems and leaves are browsed by deer and livestock
- Moderate to severe contact dermatitis in some individuals



3-leafed compound leaf
(Not 3-lobed simple)

Stems are red in the Fall





Virginia Creeper

Species: *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Family: Vitaceae

- Climbs trees or spreads on ground
- Red foliage in the fall
- Sometimes confused with Poison ivy
- Five or six leaflets
- Fruit is poisonous, but relished by squirrels and some birds





Greenbrier

(Saw Greenbriar)

Species: *Smilax bona-nox*

Family: Smilacaceae

- Climbing vine, often forming thickets
- Aggressive
- Native
- Flowers: April-May
- Mature fruits: Fall
- Stems have stiff prickles
- Deer browse
- Leaves are smooth with prickles on underside, central vein



Leaves are spotted or plain and vary greatly in size







Carolina Snailseed

(Carolina Coralbead)

Species: *Cocculus carolinus*

Family: Menispermaceae

- Grows in thickets and partially shaded areas
- Fruit matures bright red
- Fruit is eaten by birds
- Deer browse in summer
- Plants with unlobed leaves resemble greenbrier
- Soft bristles on leaves
- Leaf shape highly variable





Greenbrier and Carolina Snailseed leaves are highly variable in size, shape and “splotchiness.”



“Elephant head shape”

Greenbrier leaves are waxy and smooth, with bristles on the underside, along leaf vein



Snailseed leaves are soft, with fine hairs







Trumpet Creeper

(Trumpet Vine, Cow-Itch Vine)

Species: *Campsis radicans*

Family: Bignoniaceae

- Native
- Flowers: June-August
- Mature fruits: Spring through Fall
- Woody and high-climbing
- Can become invasive
- Can cause contact dermatitis



Compound leaf







Trumpet Honeysuckle (Evergreen Honeysuckle) Coral Honeysuckle

Species: *Lonicera sempervirens*

Family: Caprifoliaceae

- Evergreen vine
- Flowers arranged in whorls, can be red or yellow
- Native
- Flowers: March-April
- Mature fruits: Fall
- Perfoliate leaves at base of flowers and fruits
- Red or green stems



Perfoliate leaves (fused)







Dewberry

(Southern Dewberry)

Species: *Rubus trivialis*

Family: Rosaceae

- Prostrate vine, forms thickets
- Stems covered with weak and stout prickles
- Flowers: March-April
- Native
- Mature fruits: Summer
- Fruit is eaten by many species of wildlife
- Makes good cobbler



Resources:

Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines: A Pictorial Guide
Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Image Archive of Central Texas Plants
(course web site for BIO 406D, Native Plants of Texas)
University of Texas, Austin

Photos:

Jan Redden

Dave Redden

And the above resources

