Mile-a-minute Vine

*Persicaria perfoliata*

(formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*)

Vines growing along a street in Westport, CT
Mile-a-minute

- Vines form dense barbed thatch
- Triangular leaves, saucer-shaped bracts
- Sharp spines on stems, under leaves
- Blue fruits in clusters
- Animal dispersed
Mile-a-minute in Greenwich
Stamford
In New England, mile-a-minute occurs in CT, MA and RI.
Pulling Parties
Sprague 2011
Pulling Party Volunteers Sprague 2011
Biological Control for Mile-a-minute Vine

Mile-a-minute Weevil (*Rhinoncomimus latipes*)

• Widely distributed in mid-Atlantic since 2006
• 2009-11: 18,000 weevils released in CT

- Bridgewater
- Fairfield
- Greenwich
- New Milford
- Newtown
- North Haven
- Norwalk
- Sprague
- Stamford
- Westport
Zack Donais, Todd Mervosh, and Carole Cheah monitoring weevils
Releasing beneficial weevils for mile-a-minute biological control
Robert Domin and Alton Blodgett at mile-a-minute weevil release site in Sprague
Sprague First Selectman Cathy Osten releasing weevils
CL&P’s Doug Pistawka being interviewed by News Channel 3 at a release site in Norwalk
Todd Mervosh talks to reporters at a release site in Norwalk
Carole Cheah shows the beneficial weevils to reporters before releasing them in Norwalk
The weevils begin feeding on mile-a-minute leaves as soon as they are released.
Feeding damage on mile-a-minute vines by the beneficial weevils
2012

- Educational outreach
- Pulling parties and other control methods
- Additional weevil releases in Connecticut
- Survey areas near confirmed sites
**WANTED**

**Mile-a-minute Vine (MAM)**
(Persicaria perfoliata, formerly Polygonum perfoliatus)

Mile-a-minute Vine is a highly invasive annual weed spreading north and east across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. It outcompetes and overgrows native species, causing ecological and economic harm. It climbs and scrambles over trees and posts, shading out other plants (see photo at left). A single vine can grow up to 6 inches per day.

Please help us find, track and control this invasive plant.

**THREE IDENTIFYING TRAITS:**

1. Triangular leaves
2. Small curved barbs along stems
3. Saucer-shaped leaves (called aecia) at stem nodes

In summer, MAM fruits ripen from green to metallic blue.

Leaf shapes of other vines; these species do not harm ecosystems and should not be reported:

NO NO NO NO NO

Photos courtesy of Todd Mervosh, Les Mehrhoff, Hope Leason, Judy Moog-Holstein and Renee Sullivan

If you observe a plant with all 3 traits, note its location and report your findings:

Contact the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) at: 860-486-6448 (Donna Ellis, University of Connecticut)

- or -

Visit [www.hort.uconn.edu/mam](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/mam) (click “Report MAM”)

University of Connecticut

**LOOK AROUND YOUR YARD...**

**Do you see this plant?**

Mile-a-minute Vine (Scientific name: Persicaria perfoliata) is a highly invasive annual weed spreading across Connecticut. It outcompetes and overgrows native species, causing ecological and economic harm. The vine scrambles over other vegetation and can climb trees and posts (see front). Mile-a-minute is deserving of its common name and its reputation as “the Kudzu of the North”—a single vine can grow up to 6 inches per day. Mile-a-minute has been banned by the CT Legislature (Sec. 22c-381d of the CT General Statutes makes it illegal to transport, cultivate, sell or distribute the species), but populations are still spreading in natural areas and perhaps in your own backyard!

Please help us find, track and control this plant in Connecticut. With your help, we can organize and coordinate the removal of Mile-a-minute Vine before it becomes an even bigger and more costly problem. If you see a vine with all three of the characteristics on the front of this card—(1) triangular leaves, (2) small barbs on the stem, and (3) aecia, note its location and report your findings using the contact information below.

Contact the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) at 860-486-6448 (Donna Ellis)

- or -

visit [www.hort.uconn.edu/mam](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/mam) (click “Report MAM”)

For more information, please contact CIPWG or visit [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg)

Photos courtesy of Todd Mervosh, Les Mehrhoff, Hope Leason, Judy Moog-Holstein and Renee Sullivan
Mile-a-minute vine information is available on the CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) website:

www.hort.uconn.edu/mam/

Welcome to the CT mile-a-minute vine website!
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