

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)

Also called: Japanese Creeper, Grape Ivy, Japanese Ivy



Family name: Grape family (Vitaceae)

Native range: Asia

General: Fast growing perennial, climbing, deciduous vine or groundcover from 30 to 50 feet long. Climbs branched tendrils ending in small, sticky discs.

Leaves: Alternate, bright green and shiny. Leaf shape is variable, deeply toothed and from 3 to 5 lobes to unlobed leaves. Leaves on flowering branches are usually palmately compound with 3 leaflets.

Flowers: Small, greenish, in clusters, appearing in early summer.

Fruit: Small, dark blue, borne on red stems. About 0.25 to 0.5 in diameter. Ripening in September to October.

Look-alikes: English ivy is also a non-native, highly invasive vine or creeper. English ivy is *evergreen* with *dark green leaves*. All newly detected occurrences of English ivy should be eradicated.

Habitat: Forest, forest edge, field, hedgerow, roadside, yard, garden. Tolerates salt, pollution, shade, and full sun.



Threats to native habitats: Boston ivy is a fast growing vine that can smother shrubs and trees, completely shading them from the sun. In the absence of vegetation or other structures to climb, Boston ivy will create dense mats that prevent the growth of other plant life.

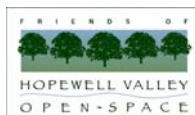
NJ Status: Boston ivy is uncommon in natural settings. This plant is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated. Isolated occurrences are beginning to appear in natural areas.

Commercial Availability: Boston ivy is planted in landscaping and gardens.



Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org/>, <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. *Plants of Pennsylvania*. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p.502.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

