

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **MILE-A-MINUTE WEED**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Persicaria perfoliata*
Synonym: *Polygonum perfoliatum*

FAMILY: *Polygonaceae*

ORIGIN: Indian, East Asia, Japan and Philippines

US INTRODUCTION: Introduced as an ornamental garden plant; first population established in New York in the 1930's

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Birds (and other animals)
- Water

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Herbaceous, annual, trailing vine grows to 15 feet, grows rapidly, scrambling over shrubs and other vegetation, spreads by seed
- Leaves are shaped like an equilateral triangle and alternate
- Stems reddish, delicate with downward pointing barbs, circular cup-shaped leafy structures (ocrea) encircle the stem at intervals
- Flowers small and white
- Fruits are an attractive metallic blue and segmented, each segment containing a glossy black or reddish-black seed
- Threatens woodland edges, wetlands, and riparian corridors



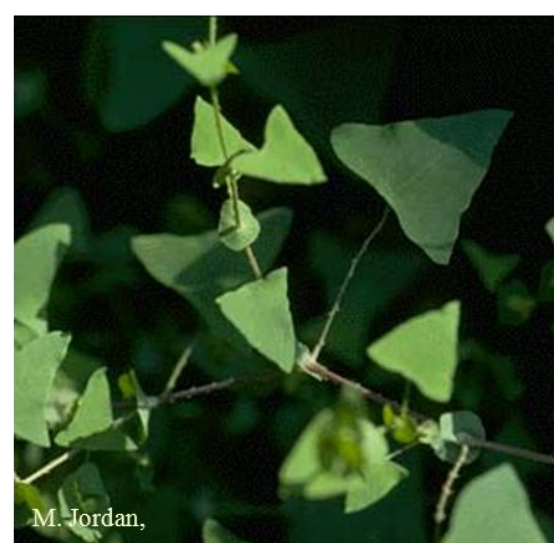
M. Jordan,

Fruiting vine



A. DiTommaso

Fruit close-up



M. Jordan,

Leaves on vine with ocrea

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

Mile-a-minute weed resembles our native tear-thumbs (*Polygonum sagittatum* and *P. arifolium*). Native tear-thumbs do not have circular ocrea on the stems.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Mile-a-minute vine Fact Sheet – Plant Conservation Alliance.
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pepe1.htm>

University of Delaware .
<http://ag.udel.edu/enwc/research/biocontrol/mileamminute.htm>

US Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Library.
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/mileminute.shtml>