

Sweet Autumn Clematis

Clematis terniflora

- This clematis was brought to the United States from Asia in 1877. It is pretty and has a sweet odor. The problem arises with its prolific seed production and wind dispersal. It has escaped cultivation and has naturalized in forest margins, grassy areas on hill and slopes and in disturbed areas such as roadsides, green spaces (parks) and drainage ditches.



Damage

- It grows rapidly forming dense clumps that smother young trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants at ground level and can suppress seed germination. It also can pull down telephone poles. It can grow to thirty feet with something to climb.

Control

- It is difficult to control once established. It can be hand pulled or mowed to help native species but this will not eliminate it due to root re-sprouting and prolific seed production. Some herbicides have been effective; however, repeated applications are needed.

Alternative

- If you would like to grow a Clematis, try Indiana's native Virgin's Bower, *Clematis virginiana*. Although it is not as fragrant, it looks just as beautiful. It is not as aggressive and being native it is beneficial to our wildlife.

Comparison

Virgin's Bower



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