

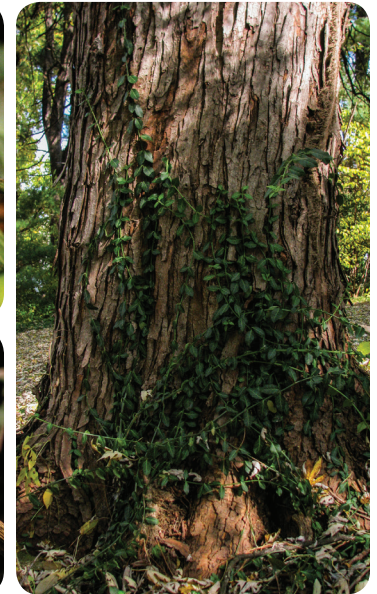
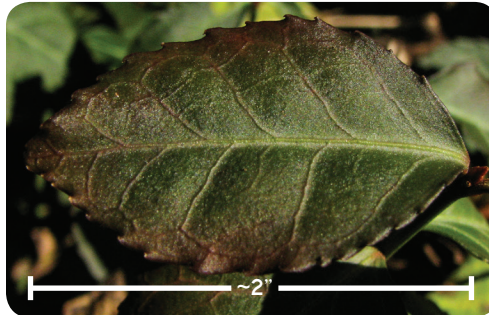
# INVASIVE PLANT FACT SHEET

## Purple Wintercreeper *Euonymus fortunei*



### DESCRIPTION AND IDENTIFICATION

A climbing, evergreen vine, purple wintercreeper is an invasive species that can reach up to 30 feet tall with dark green, oval leaves about 1-3 inches long. Leaves are opposite, simple, and leathery with toothed margins. Roots and stems are thick and woody. Wintercreeper forms a thick ground cover and aggressively creeps up trees. Flowers are small, green, and bloom in clusters during June and July. Fruits are smooth with an orange coating. Because wintercreeper can tolerate a wide range of soils, it is able to grow in a variety of forests and urban, wooded environments.



PHOTOS BY DAVID ORR

### WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Purple Wintercreeper forms dense ground cover, swamping out native plant life. This also harms our native wildlife, including many species of birds and insects, which rely on native plants for food and other resources.



### ORIGIN

Wintercreeper originated in China and is also native to Japan and Korea, where it is common to woodlands, scrublands, and forests.



### CONTROL METHODS

In areas that have only a small amount of wintercreeper, vines should be pulled from the ground and removed entirely from the site. This method may be labor intensive and requires that all roots, seeds, and seedlings are removed to avoid regrowth. In areas that are heavily affected, large diameter vines on trees should be cut, and a glyphosate herbicide should be sprayed on the cut stem according to label instructions. For small diameter vines, a glyphosate herbicide should be sprayed on the leaves according to label directions. Treatment should be done in late fall and winter, so as to avoid disturbing emerging wildflowers and other dormant native species. Care should be taken to always follow instructions on herbicides.

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## ALTERNATIVE PLANTS



MARY KEIM

### **Woodbine** *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Woody perennial, grows up to 60 ft.

Alternate, palmate, compound leaves are dark green, with deep red fall color

Habitat: Deciduous woodlands and borders, rocky bluffs; can climb walls

Partial sun and moist to dry soil

Faunal associations: Bees, moth caterpillars, deer & rabbits



TOM POTTERFIELD

### **Wild Ginger** *Asarum canadense*

Herbaceous perennial, grows up to 1 ft.

Heart or kidney shaped leaves, small purplish brown flowers

Habitat: Rich, wooded slopes

Partial to full shade and moist, well-drained soil

Faunal associations: Flies, beetles, ants



DANNY BARRON

### **Dwarf Crested Iris** *Iris cristata*

Woodland perennial, grows to 0.5 ft.

Pale blue or lilac flowers with gold crests

Habitat: Wooded uplands, well-drained slopes

Full sun to partial shade, moist to dry soil.

Faunal associations: Hummingbirds, bees



STEVEN SEVERNGHAUS

### **Wild Stonecrop** *Sedum ternatum*

Herbaceous perennial, grows up to 10 in.

Small, leaves in whorls of three with white flowers

Habitat: Wooded ravines and banks along rivers and rocky bluffs

Partial sun to full shade and mesic to dry soil

Faunal associations: Bees, occasionally wasps & flies



TOM POTTERFIELD

### **Christmas Fern** *Polystichum acrostichoides*

Perennial fern, grows up to 2.5 ft.

Green leaf with 20-40 leaflets, which are on either side of the central stalk

Habitat: Rocky, upland woodlands, wooded slopes, cliffs

Shade to partial sun and moist to dry soils

Faunal associations: Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey



JASON STURNER

### **Brown Fox Sedge** *Carex vulpinoidea*

Perennial sedge, grows up to 3.5 ft

Light green, narrow, rough textured leaves

Habitat: Floodplain woodlands, swamps, and soggy river-bottom prairies.

Full to partial sun and wet to moist soils.

Faunal associations: Skipper caterpillars, leaf beetles, sedge grasshoppers

#### REFERENCES

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- "Journey with Nature- Wintercreeper." *About the Invasive Winter Creeper*. The Nature Conservancy. <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/journeywithnature/wintercreeper.xml>

Learn more at [indiana.edu/~sustain/programs/buwp](http://indiana.edu/~sustain/programs/buwp) and [www.mc-iris.org](http://www.mc-iris.org)



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