

Woody Vines¹

Name ²	Cold Hardiness Zones ³	Soil / Climate	Pests / Diseases & Other Problems	Size ⁴	Exposure	Flowers / Fruit / Foliage	Additional Features
<p><i>Celastrus scandens</i></p> <p>American Bittersweet</p> <p>Celastraceae Bittersweet Family</p>	2A-8B	<p>Adaptable; will grow on just about any soil, regardless of pH (acidic or alkaline), so long as it is well-drained.</p> <p>Drought tolerant once established.</p>	<p>Aphids, powdery mildew, and scale are most common, but are rarely serious.</p> <p>Young stems are sometimes eaten by rabbits.</p>	<p>H: 20-35'</p> <p>S: Variable</p>	<p>Full sun to partial shade; fruits best in full sun.</p>	<p>Flowers – greenish white, insignificant, in terminal clusters (panicles); male and female flowers produced on separate plants (dioecious; individual plants male or female; insect pollinated.</p> <p>Bloom Time – spring (May/June).</p> <p>Summer Foliage – medium green; leaves alternate, toothed, elliptical with narrow, pointed tips.</p> <p>Fall Color – yellow.</p> <p>Fruit – a spherical, 3-celled capsule; green, becoming yellow to orange; matures in fall (September/October).</p>	<p>Native to eastern and central North America including Minnesota; typically has a single trunk; grows as a rambling or climbing vine and can reach heights up to 65 feet; the species is propagated by seed and the cultivars by stem cuttings.</p> <p>Bittersweet fruits are poisonous to humans, but are eaten by birds.</p> <p>Climbs by twining stems that twine from left to right (clockwise).</p>
<p>American bittersweet plants are generally dioecious (individual plants are male or female) and only female plants produce fruits; as a result, people that have male plants are disappointed by the lack of fruits; in addition, female plants planted in areas where male plants are uncommon or nonexistent also produce few if any fruits; several cultivated varieties that are known to be male (e.g., 'Hercules' and 'Indian Brave') or female (e.g., 'Diana' and 'Indian Maid') are commercially available; recently, monoecious plants (plants that produce both male and female flowers) have been identified and several cultivars of this type are now commercially available and each plant is capable of producing fruits; examples of monoecious cultivars include 'Bailumn' (Autumn Revolution™) and 'Swtazam' (Sweet Tangerine®).</p>							
<p><i>Clematis</i> spp.</p> <p>Clematis</p> <p>Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family</p>	2A-8B	<p>Generally prefer cool, moist, but well-drained soils with a neutral or slightly acidic or alkaline pH; mulching helps keep the soil moist and the roots cool.</p>	<p>Few; powdery mildew and aphids can sometimes be problematic, clematis wilt is the most serious.</p>	<p>H: 5-20'</p> <p>S: Variable</p>	<p>Full sun to partial shade.</p>	<p>Flowers – small to large, showy, white, pink, blue, purple, or red, solitary or in clusters (panicles); sometimes fragrant; insect pollinated.</p> <p>Bloom Time – summer (June-August); some species continue to bloom until frost.</p> <p>Summer Foliage – dark, medium, or bluish-green, lighter beneath; leaves opposite, simple or</p>	<p>Primarily native to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere including North America and Minnesota; the genus <i>Clematis</i> includes shrubby or vining species that are woody, semi-woody or herbaceous; some species only bloom on the previous season's growth (old wood) and will not bloom if pruned excessively or top-killed during the winter; the species that</p>

						<p>compound with three leaflets, variously toothed.</p> <p>Fall Color – poor if any (mottled yellow at best).</p> <p>Fruit – an achene with a feathery appendage; green, becoming yellow to orange; matures in fall (September/October).</p>	<p>bloom on new wood are often pruned back hard in the spring; the species are propagated by seed, cuttings, and layers and the cultivars by cuttings and layers.</p> <p>Climb by clasping petioles (leaf stalks).</p>
<p>Several species of <i>Clematis</i> are native to Minnesota including <i>Clematis occidentalis</i> (purple clematis; flowers solitary, bluish-purple, on the previous season's growth in May/June) and <i>Clematis virginiana</i> (virgin's bower, old man's beard); flowers small, white, in open panicles on current season's growth in July/August; a favorite of bees); several introduced species and many hybrids are commonly planted in Minnesota landscapes; <i>Clematis jackmanii</i> (Jackman clematis) is one of the most popular varieties.</p>							
<p><i>Lonicera</i> spp.</p> <p>Honeysuckle Vine</p> <p>Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family</p>	3A-7A	Fairly adaptable; prefer moist, well-drained soils, acidic or alkaline.	Few pests; powdery mildew and aphids are the most common, but usually aren't serious.	H: 8-16' S: Variable	Full sun to partial shade.	<p>Flowers – tubular, white, yellow, orange, red, or bicolored in small terminal clusters; fragrant; insect pollinated.</p> <p>Bloom Time – spring to summer (May-July) with some species continuing to bloom until frost.</p> <p>Summer Foliage – green to bluish-green, silvery-green beneath; leaves opposite and broadly elliptical or fused at the bases to encircle the stem near the tips of flowering shoots.</p> <p>Fall Color – sometimes yellow, but generally poor.</p> <p>Fruit – a berry; green, becoming orange or red; matures in summer/fall (July-September).</p>	<p>Native to the Northern Hemisphere including North America including Minnesota; typically have a single trunk; form is typically upright oval to rounded; the bark tends to exfoliate in vertical strips on older stems; some species can grow to 30 feet or more; the flowers are attractive to humming birds and other pollinators and the berries are eaten by birds; the species are propagated by seed and the cultivars by stem cuttings.</p> <p>Climb by twining stems that twine right to left (counterclockwise).</p>
<p>Species native to Minnesota include <i>Lonicera dioica</i> (wild honeysuckle, limber honeysuckle; flowers yellow to reddish-purple in May/June; fruits orange-red in July/August), <i>Lonicera hirsuta</i> (hairy honeysuckle; flowers yellow in June/July; fruits red in August/September), and <i>Lonicera reticulata</i> (synonym <i>Lonicera prolifera</i>; grape honeysuckle; flowers pale yellow in May/June; fruits red in July/August); <i>Lonicera × brownii</i> 'Dropmore Scarlet' ('Dropmore Scarlet' Brown's honeysuckle; flowers scarlet; sterile so no fruits are produced) is the most common non-native species planted in Minnesota.</p>							
<p><i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i></p> <p>Virginia Creeper</p> <p>Vitaceae Grape Family</p>	2A-9B	<p>Very adaptable; prefers moist, well-drained soils, but will grow on just about any soil, regardless of pH (acidic to alkaline), so long as it is well-drained.</p> <p>Quite drought tolerant once established.</p> <p>Generally tolerant of urban conditions.</p>	Susceptible to a variety of disease and insect pests, but none are typically serious.	H: 30-50' S: Variable	Full sun to heavy shade.	<p>Flowers – small, yellowish-green, insignificant, in branched clusters (cymes); insect pollinated.</p> <p>Bloom Time – summer (June/July).</p> <p>Summer Foliage – medium to dark green; leaves alternate, palmately compound with five leaflets; leaflets toothed.</p>	<p>Native to North America including southeastern Minnesota; typically has a single stem and creeps over the ground rooting at the nodes and climbing whatever it encounters; can reach heights greater than 50 feet; the variety <i>engelmannii</i> (Engelmann ivy) has smaller leaflets; the berries are eaten by birds; the species is</p>

						<p>Fall Color – red to reddish-purple; the fruit stalks also turn red in the fall.</p> <p>Fruit – a berry; green, becoming violet-blue; matures in fall (September).</p>	<p>propagated by seed and stem cuttings and the cultivars by stem cuttings.</p> <p>Climbs by branched tendrils with crescent-shaped, terminal holdfasts and aerial roots; clings loosely to supports.</p>
<p><i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i> (synonym <i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>; woodbine, thicket creeper) looks very similar to Virginia creeper and is also native to Minnesota (statewide), but is rarely sold as a landscape plant.</p>							
<p><i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i></p> <p>Boston Ivy Japanese Creeper</p> <p>Vitaceae Grape Family</p>	4B-8B	<p>Very adaptable; prefers moist, well-drained, but will grow on just about any soil, regardless of pH (acidic to alkaline), so long as it is well-drained.</p> <p>Tolerant of urban conditions.</p>	<p>Susceptible to a variety of disease and insect pests, but none are typically serious.</p>	<p>H: 30-50’ S: Variable</p>	<p>Full sun to shade.</p>	<p>Flowers – small, greenish-white, inconspicuous in branched clusters (cymes); insect pollinated.</p> <p>Bloom Time – late spring/summer (June/July).</p> <p>Summer Foliage – bright, glossy green; leaves alternate, with variable shapes – heart-shaped with large teeth, to distinctly 3-lobed (maple-like and variously toothed; most common), to palmately compound, toothed, with three leaflets).</p> <p>Fall Color – orange to scarlet-red.</p> <p>Fruit – a berry; green, becoming violet-blue; matures in fall (September/October).</p>	<p>Native to eastern Asia (China, Korea, and Japan); typically has a single trunk and creeps over the ground rooting at the nodes and climbs whatever it encounters; can reach heights greater than 50 feet; several cultivars have been selected based on foliage characteristics; the berries are eaten by birds; the species is propagated by seed and stem cuttings and the cultivars by stem cuttings.</p> <p>Climbs by short, branched tendrils with circular, suction cup-like, terminal holdfasts; clings tightly to supports.</p> <p>Performs best on north facing walls in Minnesota; winter injury is more likely on south and west exposures.</p>
<p>Note that Boston ivy (<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>) is not as cold hardy as the native species of <i>Parthenocissus</i> and also clings more tightly to walls and other supports.</p>							
<p><i>Vitis riparia & spp.</i></p> <p>Riverbank Grape and Table & Wine Grapes</p> <p>Vitaceae Grape Family</p>	2A-6B	<p>Adaptable; prefer acidic, moist, but well-drained, sandy or sandy loam soils, but will grow on most soils so long as they are well-drained.</p> <p>Quite drought tolerant once established; not surprisingly, riverbank grape tolerates short-term flooding.</p>	<p>Variably susceptible to a variety of diseases and insects including powdery mildew, downy mildew, fruit rots, grape berry moth, grape phylloxera (an aphid-like insect), and leafhoppers; Japanese beetle can also be a serious problem.</p> <p>Very sensitive to the herbicide 2,4-D which is</p>	<p>H: 20-40’ S: Variable</p>	<p>Full sun to partial shade; flowering and fruiting best in full sun.</p>	<p>Flowers – small, greenish-yellow, inconspicuous, fragrant in elongated clusters (panicles); male and female flowers may be variously produced on the same plant (monocious) or on separate plants (dioecious; individual plants male or female); wind and insect pollinated.</p>	<p>The genus is native to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere including North America and Minnesota in only a few counties in the southeastern corner of the state); typically has a single trunk, but sometimes has several stems, which can be quite large (up to 8 inches in</p>

			commonly used to control broadleaf weeds in turf (lawns); causes deformed leaves and aborted flowers.			<p>Bloom Time – spring (May/June).</p> <p>Summer Foliage – green; leaves alternate, heart-shaped, palmately 3 to 5-lobed, toothed.</p> <p>Fall Color – yellow.</p> <p>Fruit – a berry; green, becoming greenish-yellow to pink, red or dark blue and often glaucous (with a waxy coating or bloom that can be easily rubbed off); borne in pendulous clusters; matures in summer/fall (August-September).</p>	<p>diameter); form is climbing or rambling; the fruits are eaten by birds and other animals; the species are propagated by seed and the cultivars by stem cuttings.</p> <p>Climbs by forked tendrils (modified leaves).</p>
<p><i>Vitis riparia</i> (riverbank grape, frost grape) and <i>Vitis aestivalis</i> (summer grape, silverleaf grape) are native to Minnesota; riverbank grape is found throughout the state while summer grape is only found in a few counties in the southeastern corner of the state; several introduced species and hybrids are grown commercially and in residential landscapes for their fruit which is variously eaten fresh or used to produce juice, jelly, or wine; the introduced species are typically not as hardy as riverbank grape, but are variously hardy to Zones 3 and 4; examples of some of the cultivars (cultivated varieties) grown in Minnesota include ‘Bluebell’, ‘Edelweiss’, Frontenac’, ‘Frontenac Gris’, ‘La Crescent’, ‘Marquette’, ‘Marechal Foch’, and ‘Swenson Red’.</p>							

¹ Woody Vines – vines can generally be defined as weak-stemmed climbing or trailing plants that require a support to grow upright; vines tend to have a single stem or only a few stems and their growth habit is partially defined by apical dominance wherein the main stem of the plant is dominant and grows more strongly or exclusively relative to the side branches; vines are very common in tropical rainforests and are also found in temperate forests where they climb into the tree canopy to access light; vines may be annuals or perennials, herbaceous or woody, and deciduous (plants that lose their leaves at the end of the growing season and produce new leaves each year) or evergreen (plants that retain green leaves throughout the year); this is a list of deciduous woody vines (all of the vines that found in Minnesota landscapes are deciduous and, therefore, lose all of their leaves at the end of the growing season each year); vines climb by a variety of means including twining stems, tendrils, and various types of holdfasts and understanding how a particular species climbs is helpful in providing the proper kind of support.

² Name – Botanical and Common Name(s).

³ Cold Hardiness Zones – USDA Cold Hardiness Zones; Zone 1 / < 50°F, Zone 2 / -40 to -50°F, Zone 3 / -30 to -40°F, Zone 4 / -20 to -30°F, Zone 5 / -10 to -20°F, etc.

⁴ Size – H = Height; S = Spread (variable for vines depending on their orientation, whether they are rambling over the ground or growing on a support, and the nature of the support they are climbing).

Notes:

This is only a partial list (6) of the native and introduced woody vines that can be planted in Minnesota landscapes; a complete list would include over 12 species and quite a few cultivars (cultivated varieties).

The crown sizes listed represent a typical range for each species; individual vines may be bigger or smaller (primarily taller or shorter) depending on location and the resulting light and soil (fertility and moisture) conditions and cultivar; vines are most common in forest communities where they may be found in the interior or in forest openings or edges; like other plants, vines tend to be lankier under more shady conditions as a consequence of low light and stretching for light.

Remember that native plants, including woody vines, are an important part of native ecosystems and thereby serve as important an important food source for a variety of native insects, animals, and micro-organisms; and while these creatures may often be considered pests in designed landscapes, they, just like the plants themselves, are also important components of native ecosystems as food and ecosystem engineers.

Resources:

Dirr, M.A 1990. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation, and Use. Fourth Edition. Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, IL

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