

# Swamp Rabbit plants growing in the Carolinas since before the time of Columbus

To see other plants that grow wild on the Trail, visit [www.scnps.org/swamprabbit](http://www.scnps.org/swamprabbit)

To learn more about these and other wild plants and the natural communities they are a part of, join South Carolina Native Plant Society members at a field trip, workday, plant rescue, or lecture. Visit [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org) to see what's going on!

**What is a native plant?** In general, plants are considered to be native to this area if they occurred here before Europeans arrived. Over thousands of years, native flora and fauna have developed complex interdependencies that we are only beginning to understand.

## VINES

### Carolina Jessamine, Yellow Jessamine

*Gelsemium sempervirens*. The bright yellow trumpet-shaped flowers of South Carolina's state flower bloom on this evergreen twining vine in early spring. The entire plant is toxic, containing strychnine-related chemicals.

### Carolina Moonseed

*Cocculus carolinus*. A perennial woody vine with attractive bunches of dark to translucent red berries. Good late-season bird food.

### Groundnut

*Apios americana*. Perennial leguminous vine with pinnately compound leaves (5-7 leaflets), dense clusters of interesting burgundy flowers, and edible bean pods and underground tubers.

### Butterfly-pea(s)

*Centrosema virginianum* (A) & *Clitorea mariana* (B). Two very similar viny perennial legumes. Both have large (to 1.5") light purple to blue pea flowers, but *Centrosema* forms long (to 5") flattened beanlike pods and long climbing vines. *Clitorea's* pods are shorter, and it tends to trail not climb.

### Greenbrier

*Smilax* spp. There are several *Smilax* species on the SRT that are very spiny; others have only a few spines. They can climb high into trees and form impenetrable barriers.

### Muscadine

*Muscadinia rotundifolia* (*Vitis rotundifolia*). The source of much good wine and jelly, as well as an important wildlife food, this native grape is usually dark purple when ripe, sweet but with tough skin. Fruit of the Scuppernon variety (the state fruit of NC) is greenish or bronze when ripe. Other native grapes (*Vitis* spp.) also occur on the Trail.

### Passionflower, Maypop

*Passiflora incarnata*. A perennial vine with large lobed leaves, best known for its large (to 3"), elaborately ornate flowers and its melon-like fruit.

### Virginia Creeper

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*. Often mistaken for Poison Ivy, though its leaves have 5 leaflets, not Poison Ivy's 3. Also called Five-fingered Ivy, it will grow as a ground cover as well as a climbing vine.

### Eastern Poison Ivy

*Toxicodendron radicans*. Young plants grow as small shrubs, beginning to vine only when they encounter a standing object. Leaves are trifoliate and alternate on the stem. Sap contains an oily substance called urushiol which is a serious allergen to many people, causing an itchy skin rash. Remember "leaves of three, let it be!"

### Black Walnut

*Juglans nigra*. Dyes made from Black Walnut produce the dark brown in traditional Cherokee baskets, and its highly valued wood is used in furniture and gun stocks. The leaves are strongly aromatic and are often missing the terminal leaflet.

### Mockernut Hickory

*Carya tomentosa*. Mockernut Hickory's leaves usually have 7 leaflets, are pleasantly aromatic, and turn a brilliant golden-yellow in the fall. Its nuts are large and thick-shelled with a kernel that is difficult to extricate (a "mockernut"). The wood is strong and springy, unequaled for implements such as axe handles. Other Hickory species can also be seen on the Trail.

### American Beech

*Fagus grandifolia*. Beech is easy to spot in winter, because it often holds on to its leaves until they are bleached almost silver. Its bark is smooth and gray, and the oily beechnuts are an important wildlife food.

### Oaks

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*), Southern Red Oak (*Q. falcata*), Post Oak (*Q. stellata*), White Oak (*Q. alba*), and Water Oak (*Q. nigra*) (pictured top to bottom) are some of the Oak species represented on the Trail. The Oaks are the predominant trees of our area and can be divided into two major groups: The red oak group bears acorns that mature in two years and leaves with bristles at the tips of the lobes; the white oak group bears acorns that mature in a single year and leaves without bristles.

## FERNS

### Christmas Fern

*Polystichum acrostichoides*. A widespread evergreen fern that holds its fronds upright for most of the year. Leaflets ("pinnae") are said to resemble Christmas stockings.

### Ebony Spleenwort

*Asplenium platyneuron*. Fronds vaguely similar to those of Christmas Fern, but smaller (and without "Christmas stockings"), its fertile fronds rigidly upright. Evergreen.

### Sensitive Fern

*Onclea sensibilis*. Sensitive to cold, not to touch, this is sometimes confused with Netted Chain Fern. They both prefer wetish places.

### Netted Chain Fern

*Woodwardia areolata*. Pinnae (the frond's divisions) of Sensitive Fern tend to be opposite, wavy-edged, and blunt, whereas those of Netted Chain Fern are more often alternate, pointy-tipped, and with straightish margins.

## GRASSES

### River Oats, Fish-on-a-line

*Chasmanthium latifolium*. The name Fish-on-a-line comes from the resemblance of its flower head to a stringer of perch. A relative of the Sea Oats found on sea-side dunes.

### Yellow Indiangrass

*Sorghastrum nutans*. An important species of the tall-grass prairies of the Midwest, this is SC's official state grass. It is found in every county in the state.

### Splitbeard Bluestem

*Andropogon ternarius*. You've probably seen its silvery seedheads along roadsides in early fall. A closer look reveals stems that range in color from green to red to blue.

### Broomsedge Bluestem

*Andropogon virginicus*. Splitbeard's attractive but less showy cousin, Broomsedge is commonly seen in old fields, the dried straw-colored plants standing erect through winter.

### Virginia Wild-rye

*Elymus virginicus*. The flowering heads of this cool-season perennial closely resemble the grain from which we get rye bread (*Secale cereal*). Prefers moist shaded sites.

### River Cane

*Arundinaria gigantea*. Technically a grass, North America's native bamboo was used extensively by Native Americans to make household items. It once formed huge thickets ("canebrakes") in floodplains. Blooms only every 5 to 15 years.

### Silver Plumegrass

*Saccharum alopecuroides*. This Sugarcane relative is often seen at the edge of wooded roadsides, its 5-8" stems with footlong silvery plumes that are hard to miss in the fall.

### Enjoy our native wildflowers, but please leave them for others to enjoy!

This brochure produced by the South Carolina Native Plant Society, working to preserve, protect & restore native plant communities in South Carolina. For more information, visit [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)

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## FORBS/HERBS

### Bunched Arrowhead

*Sagittaria fasciculata*. A globally rare, federally protected plant known to occur in only 3 counties, northern Greenville County being its epicenter. Its seepage habitat is very threatened, and Travelers Rest is home to a 180-acre Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve.

### Common Cattail

*Typha latifolia*. The male flowers at tips of young stalks are high in protein and good in pancakes; female flowers below can be steamed and eaten like corn on the cob.

### Duck Potato

Also known as Broadleaf Arrowhead, this has arrow-shaped leaves and stalks of small white 3-petaled flowers. Indigenous peoples used its underwater tubers as food.

### Little Sweet Betsy Trillium

*Trillium cuneatum*. Several Trillium species occur in the Upstate, all with just 3 leaves, 3 sepals, and 3 petals. Plants are usually 5-7 years old before they flower and may live over 100 years.

### Solomon's Seal

*Polygonatum biflorum*. Solomon Seal's spreading leaves almost hide the bell-like flowers that dangle from its arching stem.

### Pokeweed

*Phytolacca americana*. Grows to 6' tall, with fleshy red stems and large leaves. Its glossy black berries with deep red juice are relished by birds and spread widely. Toxic to humans.

### Spatterdock, Yellow Pond Lily

*Nuphar advena*. A water plant with small, ball-like, bright yellow flowers just above floating heart-shaped leaves, which Native Americans used for dye and to stop cuts from bleeding.

### Bloodroot

*Sanguinaria canadensis*. This spring-blooming native wildflower has a long tradition of use in herbal medicine. Its common name refers to the toxic red juice of its roots.

### Yellow Fumitory, Yellow Harlequin

*Corydalis flavula*. A plant with finely divided leaves and blooms that may begin in late winter and continue through spring. In the same order as Poppies and containing many toxic compounds.

## TREES & SHRUBS

### Sumac

Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) and Smooth Sumac (*R. glabra*) are both found along the Trail. In the fall, leaves and fruit are a brilliant red; crushed fruits can be mixed with sugar and water to make a beverage akin to lemonade.

### Hearts-a-bustin'

*Enonymus americanus*. A straggly shrub with green stems, inconspicuous flowers, and (in fall) show-stopping warty red capsules that burst open to reveal orange-red seeds.

### American Beautyberry

*Callicarpa americana*. Its small pinkish flowers are nice, but it's the deep violet fruit that catches your eye — and is consumed by over 40 species of songbirds.

### Eastern Blackberry

*Rubus pensilvanicus* (*R. argutus*). Blackberries and dewberries are similar: both have armed stems and good-tasting fruit that ripens from red to black. Blackberries tend to be erect or high-arching; dewberries lie somewhat prostrate. This is the most common native blackberry in our area and on the Trail. Its flowers are white.

### Buttonbush

*Cephalanthus occidentalis*. "Fragrant balls of flowers resembling pin cushions" is how one source described Buttonbush's blooms, which butterflies delight in during the summer. Look for this shrub in wet areas.

### Wild Strawberry

*Fragaria virginiana*. Domestic strawberries are hybrids of this wild native and a European species. Its leaves have 3 leaflets, which are toothed; the flowers are white; its fruit is red and quite sweet when ripe!

### Tick-trefoils, Beggar's Lice

*Desmodium* spp. Small pink pea-like flowers give rise to racemes of small fruits covered with dense hooked hairs which can stick to clothing, pets, etc., as a seed dispersal strategy. Common in forest edges.

### Toothed Spurge

*Euphorbia dentata*. A cousin to our Christmas Poinsettias. Flowers are small greenish cup-shaped structures called cyathia, and leaves surrounding them may be splashed with color, looking like flower petals. Mildly toxic milky sap oozes from a torn leaf or cut stem.

### Orange Jewelweed

Also called "Touch-me-not", because ripe seeds explode out of its seed pods when touched. Flowers have a large nectar-laden spur in back and are pollinated by hummingbirds and bees. Closely related to Impatiens.

### Swamp Rose-mallow

*Hibiscus moscheutos*. Can grow very tall in sunny wet places. Large showy flowers with 5 white petals and a red/purple center. Hummers and bees enjoy their nectar.

### Dooryard Violet

*Viola sororia*. Also called Common Blue Violet. Flower color varies from solid dark purple even to white, and the 2 side petals have delicate hairs at their base (beards). Heart-shaped leaves grow in rosettes from underground stems (rhizomes).

### Johnny-jump-up, Wild Pansy

*Viola bicolor*. In spring, this native violet appears to "jump-up" overnight! Small flowers with 5 pale blue petals grow from tips of upright stalks that bend at the top. Leaves deeply divided; flowers an attractive, tasty garnish.

### Eastern Sensitive-briar

*Mimosa microphylla*. A plant with leaves that fold up after being touched (thus, "sensitive"), prickly stems, and pink pompom-like flowers in summer.

### Tiny Bluet

*Houstonia missillia*. These small 4-petaled flowers can form conspicuous purple mats in fields and lawns in spring. Member of the Coffee family.

### Sassafras

*Sassafras albidum*. Oil of Sassafras has been used to flavor tobacco, root beer, and other beverages, soaps and perfumes. Interestingly, its leaves may have 3 lobes, no lobes, or may be shaped like a mitten.

### Downy Serviceberry, Sarvisberry, Shadbush

*Amelanchier arborea*. One of the first native trees to flower in the spring, blooming about the time that the ground thawed enough to bury the dead after a long cold winter — thus (some say) its name refers to funeral services.

### Black Cherry

*Prunus serotina*. Black Cherry is a favored host plant of the impressive Tiger Swallowtail caterpillar and is reported to support over 400 species of butterflies and moths.

### Judas Tree, Eastern Redbud

*Cercis canadensis*. Those splashes of magenta-pink along woodland margins in early spring may be Redbud flowers, which put on quite a show before the tree's heart-shaped leaves emerge. The flowers are edible with a slightly sweet, "raw green-bean" taste.

### Flowering Dogwood

*Cornus florida*. What looks like a single flower is actually a cluster of very tiny yellow blossoms surrounded by large white petal-like bracts (modified leaves). It often blooms at the same time as Redbud, and together they make a striking display.

### Small's Ragwort

*Packera anomala*. A rich golden-yellow commonly seen on mowed roadsides in early spring, with hairy tufted seeds spread by wind.

### Hemp Dogbane, Indian Hemp

*Apocynum cannabinum*. Mature stems commonly red and with long tough fibers that Native Americans twisted into cordage. A milkweed relative, with milky sap.

### Milkweed

*Asclepias* spp. Milkweed flowers produce copious amounts of nectar and are very popular with pollinating insects. Its toxic alkaloids provide protection to those insects that have adapted to feed on it, such as the Monarch butterfly (for which it is the primary host plant). At least 2 species are found on the Trail.

### Oldfield Toadflax

*Nuttallanthus canadensis*, *Linaria canadensis*. That lavender mist hovering low across a field in April might, upon closer inspection, prove to be a swath of small plants (that someone thought resembled flax) with tiny purplish flowers (that someone thought resembled toads).

### Allegheny Monkey-flower

*Mimulus ringens*. The lavender flowers have a small upper lip and larger lower lip, giving them a "monkey face" appearance; in fact, the name *Mimulus* is derived from the Latin "mimus" for comic actor or mime! A wetland plant, to 3-4' tall.

### Carolina Wild Petunia

*Ruellia carolinensis*. This 1-2' tall perennial has lavender, funnel-shaped flowers. Often found in medium to dry soils at woods edge.

### Cardinal Flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*. Look for these vibrant red flowers (the color of a Catholic Cardinal's robe) by woodland streams. A favorite of Ruby Throated Hummingbirds.

### Downy Lobelia

*Lobelia puberula*. Stems are covered with short soft hairs (the species name *puberula* is from Latin "puber", meaning "hairy", and the root word for puberty).

### Silky Dogwood

*Cornus ananum*. Its flowers don't have the showy white bracts of Flowering Dogwood, but the leaves are very similar.

### Common Silverbell

*Halesia tetraptera*. Clusters of spectacular white bells dangle from the branches of this understorey tree in spring. The bark of young trees is distinctively striped.

### Pine

Pines are cone-bearing (thus "conifers") and evergreen, with resinous wood and stiff, needle-like leaves arranged in bundles. Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*), and Virginia Pine (*P. virginiana*) are the predominant pines on the Trail.

### Eastern Red Cedar

*Juniperus virginiana*. Cedar is also a conifer, but its cones look a lot like blue berries and its evergreen scale- and needle-like leaves are not in bundles. Cedar's fragrant, durable wood is used for cedar chests, fence posts and pencils, among other things.

### Hollow-stem Joe Pye Weed

*Eutrochium fistulosum*. Plants reach 8-10' tall and bear a large loose crowning cluster of showy pink blossoms, which attract butterflies, bees and many other nectar feeders. Leaves are arranged in whorls.

### New York Ironweed

*Vernonia noveboracensis*. Tall (3-6') perennial with alternate leaves, topped with clusters of intensely purple blooms. Moist sites.

### Boneset

*Eupatorium* spp. Hyssopleaf Boneset, Roundleaf Boneset and Late-flowering Boneset are some of the Bonesets on the Trail. The name comes from its use as a folk medicine to reduce fevers, especially flu's "bonebreak" fevers.

### Daisy Fleabane

*Erigeron annuus* & *E. strigosus*. Two very similar old field annuals, 2-3' tall with numerous nickel-sized composite flower heads.

### Frost Aster

*Symphoricarpos pilosum* & *Calico Aster* *S. lateriflorum*. Similar to the daisy fleabanes, but perennial, with fewer, wider rays and smaller disks than those of fleabanes.

### Tall Goldenrod

*Solidago altissima*. Tall Goldenrod (South Carolina's official state wildflower) is the Goldenrod most often seen on the Trail. Goldenrods are often accused of causing hay fever, but the guilty party is the inconspicuous wind-pollinated Ragweed, which blooms at the same time.

### Sunflowers

*Helianthus* spp. Purple-disc Sunflower, Woodland Sunflower, Hairy Sunflower, and Jerusalem Artichoke are some of the sunflowers found on the Trail. Anywhere from 2-8' tall, but all with yellow-gold ray flowers in a circle around a compact set of disk flowers, good examples of the composite flower head structure that is typical in the Sunflower family.

### Ditch Daisy

*Bidens aristosa* & *B. polylepis*. Ditch Daisy is the exuberant yellow composite pictured on the cover of this brochure.

### Sweetgum

*Liquidambar styraciflua*. Sweetgum's star-shaped leaves are pungently aromatic when crushed, with fall colors that can range from yellow to red to deep purple all on one tree. A favored host plant of the Luna moth.

### Tulip-tree, Yellow Poplar

*Liriodendron tulipifera*. Called "poplar" because its wood resembles that of Poplar, and "tulip" because of its showy tulip-shaped flowers (to see them, look up). Its trunk is uncommonly straight; its leaves large, distinctively shaped, and yellow in fall.

### Sycamore

*Platanus occidentalis*. One of the largest trees in the East, it can be recognized even at a distance by its peeling multi-colored bark.

### American Holly

*Ilex opaca*. This is one of the most familiar trees in eastern North America, its spiny evergreen leaves and bright red berries often used as Christmas decorations.

### Red Maple

*Acer rubrum*. Red Maple blooms as early as January, the tiny red flowers giving a hint of color to the gray treeline and providing an early source of pollen and nectar for the bees. Its red and yellow leaves are some of the showiest in our fall woodlands.

### Southern Magnolia

*Magnolia grandiflora*. A tree that has come to personify the South, with large fragrant flowers and evergreen leaves. Now widely planted, naturalizing beyond its natural range.





# Plants from around the world that have naturalized along the Trail

## FERNS

### Japanese Climbing Fern

*Lygodium japonicum*. (Asia) This fern-like fern acts more like a vine, with fronds that can reach 100' in length and climb high into trees. (INVASIVE)

### Mariana Maiden Fern

*Macrothelypteris torresiana*. (Asian & African tropics) With highly dissected ("lacy" or bipinnate-pinnatifid), broadly triangular fronds up to 4' long, this is larger than any of the ferns native to this area.

## GRASSES

### Sweet Vernal Grass

*Anthoxanthum odoratum*. (Europe) A sweet-smelling perennial grass and one of the first to flower in spring, its pollen is a major cause of spring hay fever. A common component of English pastures and brought here for the same purpose.

### Japanese Stiltgrass

*Microstegium vimineum*. (tropical southeast Asia) This annual grass arrived in North America as packing material. Virtually unknown in the 50s; today extensive dense patches can be found in almost every county from Mississippi to Connecticut. (INVASIVE)

### Johnsongrass

*Sorghum halepense*. (Eurasia) Sometimes mistaken for young corn, this coarse, tall, fast-growing grass (to 8') was originally imported for forage. Unfortunately for grazing animals, injured or frost-damaged plants can contain deadly levels of cyanide. A very difficult weed in many row-crops and on many states' noxious weed list. (INVASIVE)

### Golden Bamboo

*Phyllostachys aurea*. (China, Japan) Technically a grass, Golden Bamboo grows in dense evergreen thickets up to 30' high, its hollow stems often used for cane fishing poles. Of the various bamboos imported into the country, this is the one most often encountered. (INVASIVE)



## TREES & SHRUBS

### Amur Bush-honeysuckle

*Lonicera maackii*. (east Asia) Imported as an ornamental into New York in 1898, and escaped into eastern woodlands, forests and neglected urban areas. (INVASIVE)

### European Blackberry

*Rubus bifrons*. (Europe) Differentiated from the native by its pink flowers and long, coarse, sprawling, heavily-armed stems.

### Multiflora Rose

*Rosa multiflora*. (Asia) The long arching canes of this aggressive shrub can clamber into trees or form impenetrable thorny thickets. Its flowers are white; those of the more well-behaved native Swamp Rose, which is also found on the Trail, are pink (see [www.scnps.org/swamprabbit](http://www.scnps.org/swamprabbit)). (INVASIVE)

### Heavenly Bamboo, Nandina

*Nandina domestica*. (China) This popular evergreen shrub can apparently grow anywhere, and it is increasingly escaping and naturalizing in suburban woodlands. (INVASIVE)

### Leatherleaf Mahonia

*Berberis bealei* (*Mahonia bealei*). (China) This widely planted evergreen shrub is naturalizing throughout the Southeast, often in suburban woodlands. Look for yellow flowers in winter or early spring, and leaflets that resemble Holly leaves. (INVASIVE)

## FORBS/HERBS

### Woolly Mullein

*Verbascum thapsus*. (Europe) Mullein's soft fuzzy leaves and 3-6' tall flower stalks make it easy to recognize. Its seeds can remain viable for over a century.

### White Dutch Clover

*Trifolium repens*. (Eurasia) Clovers are legumes, one of the few groups of plants with the ability to pull nitrogen out of the air and make it available to other plants through the soil. Before the introduction of broad-leaf herbicides, White Dutch Clover was commonly included in lawn seed mixes.

### Rabbitfoot Clover

*Trifolium arvense*. (Mediterranean region) The flower heads of this Clover are grayish and furry, like a rabbit's foot...

### Red Clover

*Trifolium pratense*. (Europe) Even though the name says "red", its flowers are pink.

### Japanese Knotweed

*Reynoutria japonica*. (east Asia) Mortgage lenders in the United Kingdom won't grant a loan on properties infested with Japanese Knotweed, because its extensive rhizomes can cause structural damage and it is very difficult to eradicate. (INVASIVE)

### Chamber Bitter

*Phyllanthus urinaria*. (tropical southeast Asia) Used in Asia to treat kidney stones and gallstones, better known here as a profusely seeding, tenacious-rooted, warm-season annual weed. Be warned! Don't let it go to seed!

### European Field Pansy

*Viola arvensis*. (Europe) Similar to the native Johnny-jump-up (see other side), but its flowers are cream and yellow marked with purple.

### Beefsteak-plant, Perilla

*Perilla frutescens*. (India) Superficially resembles Basil or Coleus, and can be confused with other Mint family members. Perilla has toxic characteristics, and it is fed on by very few herbivores. Reported to be invasive in mid-Atlantic states.

### Chinese Privet

*Ligustrum sinense*. (China) Considered to be one of the most noxious of all our weeds, this semi-evergreen shrub forms dense stands that choke out native vegetation and have almost engulfed bottomlands throughout the South. (INVASIVE)

### Winged Burning Bush

*Euonymus alatus*. (east Asia) Called "burning bush" because of its brilliant fall color and "winged" because of the corky wings which often line its squarish twigs. This widely planted landscape plant is causing serious problems northward and is now showing up here in our suburban woodlands. (INVASIVE)

### Paper Mulberry

*Broussonetia papyrifera*. (east Asia) Paper Mulberry's leaf shape is quite variable and can look as if cut out by a bizarre jigsaw. Leaf undersides are velvety-hairy. (INVASIVE)

### White Mulberry

*Morus alba*. (east Asia) Introduced in the 1700s in a failed attempt to establish a silk industry. White Mulberry's variable leaf shape can be confused with Paper Mulberry or the native Red Mulberry, but its leaves are mostly hairless. Its berries are edible, but not as flavorful as the native. (INVASIVE)

## What is an exotic plant?

A plant that has been introduced (either purposefully or accidentally) into an area outside its native range is referred to as "exotic" or "introduced" in that area.

## What is a naturalized plant?

An introduced plant that has escaped cultivation and is reproducing without help from humankind is said to have "naturalized". No longer confined to a garden, naturalized plants are growing wild.



← **Henbit** *Lamium amplexicaule*. (Eurasia, northern Africa) The name "henbit" comes from the notion (maybe fact) that free-range chickens like to eat the whole plant and its seeds. Rich in carotene, it gives a nice dark yellow color to the yolks of a hen's eggs.

← **Purple Deadnettle** *Lamium purpureum*. (Eurasia) Deadnettle is closely related and often grows with Henbit (as shown at left). The young fresh leaves of both can be used as pot herbs or in salads.

### Fig Buttercup, Lesser Celandine

*Ficaria verna* (*Ranunculus ficaria*). (Europe) In 2013, a birder noticed this plant in the Reedy River floodplain at Lake Conestee Nature Park, its first documented occurrence in South Carolina. This garden escape is turning into an aggressive invasive that threatens bottomlands throughout eastern North America. Watch a video at <http://scnps.org/citizen-science-invasive-fig-buttercup/> (INVASIVE)

### Queen Anne's Lace, Wild Carrot

*Daucus carota*. (Europe) An ancestor of the cultivated carrot, this conspicuous introduced wildflower is established in 48 states, more common now than the very similar American Wild Carrot.

### Dandelion

*Taraxacum officinale*. (Eurasia) Whenever you see "officinale" in a plant's name, know that it was kept handy in the storeroom of medicines and other necessities. Considered a weed by gardeners today, but so highly valued that European colonists deliberately included seeds in their luggage.

### Ox-eye Daisy

*Leucanthemum vulgare*. (Eurasia) At a glance you would think this was a Dandelion, but its hairy leaves give it away.

### Bachelor's Buttons

*Centaurea cyanus*. (Mediterranean Europe) ↓ The flowers of this common introduction are typically a startling electric blue.

### Bradford Pear, Callery Pear

*Pyrus calleryana*. (China) Hailed as a promising new ornamental in the 1950s, but as early as the 80s concerns were voiced about overplanting and limb breakage. Today, it continues to be planted, even as it aggressively colonizes neighboring fields. (INVASIVE)

### Chinaberry

*Melia azedarach*. (southeast Asia) Easy to spot in winter by the large clusters of orangish berrylike fruit, which is poisonous to humans and livestock, and in summer by its twice-pinnately compound leaves.

### Mimosa

*Albizia julibrissin* (tropical Asia) Introduced to Charleston in the 1700s, this tree is now found in virtually every county from eastern Texas to Delaware. The doubly-compound flowers look almost fernlike, and its pink flowers resemble pompons. (INVASIVE)

### Tree-of-heaven

*Ailanthus altissima*. (east Asia) A fast-growing tree that can reach 80' in height, it is an aggressive and noxious weed, colonizing even undisturbed forests and outcompeting native vegetation. Its leaves are pinnately compound and up to 4' long. It can be distinguished from native shrubs and trees with similar leaves (such as Sumacs, Black Walnut, or Pecan), by the unpleasant burnt-peanut-butter odor of its crushed foliage/cut twigs and by leaflet margins with one or two teeth. (INVASIVE)

## VINES

### Kudzu

*Pueraria montana*. (east Asia) Kudzu, "the vine that ate the South", is the poster child of invasive plants, but experts say it is actually one of the lesser threats — reasons include its intolerance of shade and the fact that it drops its foliage after the first frost. The flowers smell like grape kool-aid. (INVASIVE)

### Cinnamon Vine, Chinese Yam

*Dioscorea polystachya*. (China) Sold as a fast-growing ornamental in the early 1900s, it wasn't until the 1980s that it was noticed in the wild, where vines can quickly overgrow shrubs and small trees. It reproduces both by seed and by small potato-like aerial tubers. (INVASIVE)

### Chinese Wisteria

*Wisteria sinensis*. (China) Introduced in 1916 as an ornamental and still popular in the nursery trade, despite being reported as invasive from Massachusetts to Texas. The twining vines climb trees, shrubs and manmade structures. (INVASIVE)

### Chocolate-vine, Akebia

*Akebia quinata*. (Japan, China, Korea) A sideways glance at a clambering vine engulfing small trees and shrubs and you might assume "Kudzu", but a closer look reveals leaves that are 5-parted, neither lobed nor toothed, and stay on throughout the year. It forms dense mats in natural forests and is difficult to eradicate. (INVASIVE)

### Wintercreeper

*Euonymus fortunei*. (China) In its sterile, juvenile, "creeping" phase, this woody vine has dark green leaves with silvery veins; leaves of the mature, flowering/fruiting phase are larger and a lighter green. It is tolerant of heavy shade and can climb up to 70', smothering both herbaceous plants and trees. (INVASIVE)

### Porcelain-berry

*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* (*A. glandulosa*). (northeast Asia) If you look only at its leaves, you might think this was one of our native grape vines, but its erect flower clusters, multi-colored fruit, and warty-looking bark set it apart. This has naturalized extensively on the Trail but apparently has only recently been noticed. (INVASIVE)

### English Ivy

*Hedera helix*. (Europe) This ground cover often seen in old established neighborhoods has escaped to smother neighboring woodlands. Once it starts to climb, the shape of its leaves changes and it enters a flowering/fruiting phase. (INVASIVE)

### Sweet Autumn Clematis

*Clematis terniflora*. (east Asia) Introduced in 1864 as a fragrant ornamental. Almost 100 years went by before botanists began finding it in the wild, but now it can be found throughout the East. It resembles the native Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*), but the leaves of *C. terniflora* are leathery and untoothed. (INVASIVE)

### Japanese Honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*. (east Asia) A vine so common throughout the South that many people assume that it is native (despite its name!), Japanese Honeysuckle overgrows small trees and smothers herbaceous plants. Flowers very fragrant. (INVASIVE)

## What is an invasive plant?

An introduced plant that not only has naturalized, but also is expanding its range into natural areas and disrupting naturally occurring native plant communities, is considered to be "invasive".

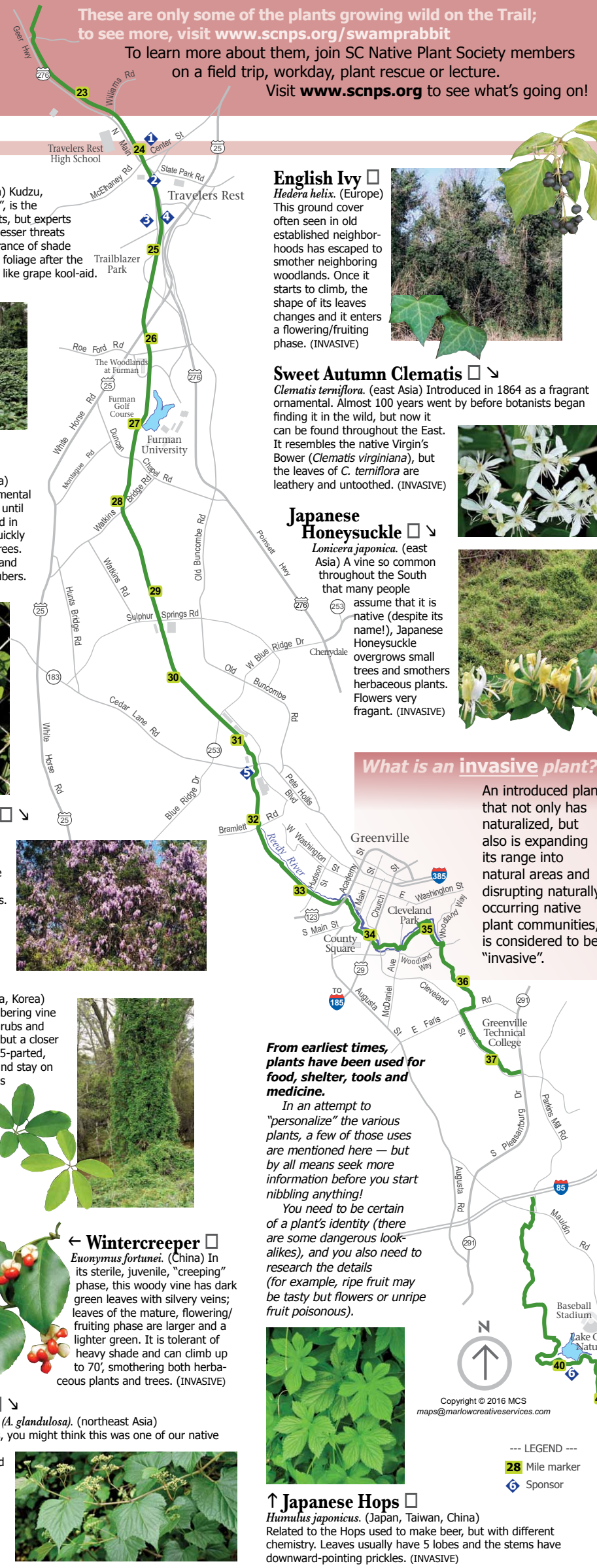
From earliest times, plants have been used for food, shelter, tools and medicine.

In an attempt to "personalize" the various plants, a few of those uses are mentioned here — but by all means seek more information before you start nibbling anything! You need to be certain of a plant's identity (there are some dangerous look-alikes), and you also need to research the details (for example, ripe fruit may be tasty but flowers or unripe fruit poisonous).



### Japanese Hops

*Humulus japonicus*. (Japan, Taiwan, China) Related to the Hops used to make beer, but with different chemistry. Leaves usually have 5 lobes and the stems have downward-pointing prickles. (INVASIVE)



Wild plants on the Rabbit Trail

Logos for Sunrift Adventures, Friends of the Reedy River, Lake Conestee Nature Park, Williams Hardware, Clemson University Invasive Species Program, United Community Bank, CountyRec, and South Carolina Native Plant Society.