

## Weed of The Week

### Wild Grapes (*Vitis spp.*)

On the noxious weeds of Ohio list, the wild grape is a weed that many landowners are familiar with. While there are several wild grape species, Riverbank and Frost grapes are the two most occurring throughout all of Ohio. Other grape species do occur in Ohio, just not as abundantly found. Frost and riverbank species can be told apart from our three less common grapes (Possum, Pigeon, and Summer) by having green and essentially hairless leaf undersurfaces. Possum, Pigeon, and Summer are whitened and/or very hairy beneath. Wild grapes are perennial climbing or trailing vines. They can be mistaken for Virginia Creeper, Boston Ivy, and Moonseed.

Wild grapes can hinder the growth of trees as they use trees for trellising to reach as much sunlight as possible. Wild grape vines can easily take over an area if left untreated. They can smother out trees and other forest vegetation due to the growth patterns. Since wild grape provides shelter and soft mast used by many species of wildlife, it is recommended to leave some vines intact. Consider removing plants that are inhibiting the growth of valuable trees and leaving vines on trees of lesser quality. Mechanical control of severing the vines one to two feet above the ground is effective if the vines are growing under the forest canopy. Even if they resprout, grape is shade intolerant and will not survive in a heavily shaded area.

Three chemical herbicides are available to control grape. Dicamba can be applied as a foliar spray, basal bark, or spot application. Fosamine herbicide works as a foliar spray. 2,4-D herbicide can be used as a selective treatment when applied as a stump treatment, basal bark spray, or tree injection. Caution must be taken when using herbicides because they kill non-target broad-leaf under-story plants, seedlings, and saplings.

