



Natural Heritage Conservation Program-Invasives
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921

PORCELAIN BERRY CONTROL: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- “Why does the porcelain berry need to be controlled?”
- “How did it get here?”
- “How much does it cost to treat the porcelain berry on my property?”
- “If I give permission to access my property, what will the contractor do?”
- “Is the herbicide poisonous to my family or my animals?”
- “Will the vines be removed from my property?”
- “I have neighbors that have porcelain berry, how do they get it treated too?”
- “What if something goes wrong with the application?”
- “When will treatment happen?”
- “How will I know when the applicator treats my property?”
- “If treatment is occurring this winter, why am I getting this letter so late?”

“Why does porcelain berry need to be controlled?”

This vine was introduced from Asia and can be highly invasive, damaging trees in private yards, parks and forests. It is regulated as a ‘Prohibited Invasive Plant,’ meaning that it must be controlled where it is growing, regardless of if it was intentionally planted or not. The population in west Madison is the largest known population in the state.

Porcelain berry’s prohibited status means it is found in a few places but spreads aggressively and can potentially cause significant environmental or economic harm or is a human health hazard. It is illegal to buy, possess, transport, transfer and introduce prohibited species into Wisconsin.



David J. Eagan, WDNR

“How did it get here?”

Until 2009 there were no state or federal regulations limiting its sale and planting. One or more residents in the area probably planted it several years ago. Since that time the birds have helped spread the seed around, greatly expanding the population.

“How much does it cost to treat the porcelain berry on my property?”

You are welcome to treat the porcelain berry yourself at your own expense. If so, please follow the guidance on the fact sheet. You may choose to allow a contractor to work on it. This project is funded by limited federal funding. Treating your porcelain berry will be at no cost to you in 2019 and hopefully for at least one follow-up treatment.

“If I give permission to access my property, what will the contractor do?”

The contractors will survey your property looking for porcelain berry vines. If they are found, they will be treated with either a cut-stem or basal bark treatments using the herbicide triclopyr 4 (~15% active ingredient) in bark oil. Cutting the stem will kill the upper portion of the vine. Treating the stem will weaken the roots. It may take several treatments over several years to kill larger vines.

“Is the herbicide poisonous to my family or my animals?”

The herbicide that we use for this project is called triclopyr. It is specifically formulated to kill broadleaf and woody plants (trees, shrubs and vines). It does not harm grass. By applying it only on the cut-stem or as a basal bark treatment it is a very targeted herbicide application and prevents the plant from re-sprouting in the following year. According to the US EPA chemical review documents, Reregistration Eligibility Decision for triclopyr, there are no risks of concern to terrestrial birds, mammals, humans, and bees. It will not be used near open water. See the attached herbicide sheet for more details.

“Will the vines be removed from my property?”

Cut vines will no longer leaf out and will dry up, so the extra weight they have added to trees will no longer be a problem. The vines attach to trees and shrubs by wrapping their tendrils tightly around stems and leaves. Pulling freshly cut vines down can cause damage to your trees or other things in your yard. If you want to remove the vines from the trees, wait until the summer, when the vines are dead and the tendrils have weakened.

“I have neighbors that have porcelain berry, how do they get it treated too?”

Please refer them to my contact information below, and I can discuss the locations and sizes with them and arrange for treatment in 2019.

“What if something goes wrong with the application?”

Our contractors need to be licensed, certified, herbicide applicators with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). In addition, they need to be bonded and have personal and property liability insurance. If there is accidental herbicide application that results in property damages or losses, compensation will be paid by the contractor.

“When will treatment happen?”

Initial treatment is planned between January 1 to March 1. Follow-up treatment of re-sprouts may be done in May or June 2019.

“How will I know when the applicator treats my property?”

All herbicide contractors are required to call the landowners prior to access. So, adding your phone number is a key step to keep all parties informed and safe. If you should have any special considerations that need to be followed on your property, please add details on the reverse side of the permission form.

Since we plan to treat up to several hundred properties, it is not possible to provide a day by day treatment plan for each property. There may be changes in plans based on weather, including precipitation and wind speed, and other logistical problems that arise.

“If treatment is occurring this winter, why am I getting this letter so late?”

Funding for this project just recently became available. We have had someone surveying the area and identifying infested neighborhoods. We are trying to identify, contact new landowners, and request treatment permission as quickly as possible.

For further questions and comments, please contact:

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