

POLYGONUM AUBERTII Silver Lace Vine



Silver lace vine (*Fallopia baldschuanica*, syn. *Polygonum aubertii*) is a fast-growing perennial vine that has been found to escape cultivation and grow rampantly up and over other vegetation including even very tall trees. It has clusters of small white flowers, twining or trailing stems and somewhat arrowhead-shaped leaves. It looks similar to bindweed but with clusters of much smaller flowers and woody stems.

It is sold as a “fast-growing screen” and it will grow aggressively to cover over structures and other plants. It is closely related to Japanese knotweed and has been known to hybridize with that species in Great Britain. Silver lace vine is native to China, Russia, Kazakhstan and other parts of western Asia. It is also called Russian-vine, Bukhara fleecflower, silver fleecflower vine, Chinese fleecvine, Chinese bindweed and mile-a-minute vine.

In King County, known escaped populations of silver lace vine mostly occur in developed areas in and around Seattle, near where it has been planted or dumped as yard waste. Although the populations are few in number, they are large in size and would be difficult to control without harming other vegetation. Limiting further spread of this plant is the key to avoiding significant impacts.

Legal Status in King County, Washington

Silver lace vine is classified as a Weed of Concern by the King County Noxious Weed Control Board and is not on the Washington State Noxious Weed List. Property owners are not required to control it, although control is recommended in areas being restored to native plants. People are encouraged to avoid planting silver lace vine in King County. Alternatives are recommended in the Garden Wise booklet, available for download or by contacting the noxious weed program. For more information

on the legal status of noxious weeds in King County, see Noxious weed lists and laws.



Identification

- Perennial vine with long, twisting stems that are reddish-green in color, woody near the base, 25 to 35 feet long (up to 10 meters).
- Leaves somewhat arrowhead-shaped, pointed oval to nearly triangular in shape,

1.5 to 4 inches long on twisting leaf stalks (petioles), alternate, untoothed and simple.

- Flowers are in branched clusters (panicles) that are slender, drooping or spreading, with numerous small white flowers, each cluster 6-8 inches long.
- New growth is reddish in color.
- Blooms mid-summer to early fall (August-September), fragrant, attract honeybees.
- Individual flowers are under ½ inch (1 cm), hang on short stalks (pedicels), have five petal lobes and are white to greenish or pale pink, sometimes turning bright pink as the fruits develop.
- Fruits are pinkish, somewhat triangular shaped and fairly conspicuous in the fall.
- Seeds shiny black three-sided achenes (a hard, dry fruit that doesn't split open at maturity).

Toxicity

Like many other plants in the knotweed family, silver lace vine contains oxalates that if eaten in large amounts may cause kidney disease or low calcium or magnesium levels in livestock, dogs or other animals.

Habitat and impact

Silver lace vine is found growing on fences, hillsides, trees and on other vegetation in a variety of habitats. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and is most abundant in full sun to part shade. Because it grows over other plants, it can suppress their growth and weigh them down. It is highly branched and difficult to remove from other plants without injuring them. It grows over low-lying vegetation as well as climbing high into trees and growing over the tops of tall plants, even other invasive plants such as blackberry and knotweed.



Herbal medicine

Medicinal properties Medicinal parts Has medicinal uses no Do not self-administer no Do not use if pregnant no Legally restricted no Toxicity precautions Medicinal notes

Traditional uses

Parts used Traditional uses Contemporary uses Fragrance Fragrance parts Fragrance intensity Fragrance category Dye parts Dye color

