This vining, woody plant is fast-growing and can spread readily along the ground and reach heights of 20' to 40' in a year. Chocolate vine was brought to the U.S. from Asia in 1845 as an ornamental for ground cover or trellising. It grows well in most soils and escaped from cultivation. With its ability to smother small trees and shrubs and displace native understory species, it has become a threat to natural areas. Leaves are alternate along the vine, palm-shaped with five leaflets. Leaflets are oval-elliptic, 1-3" long; the edges are entire. The small, fragrant flowers have three cupped petals, light purple to chocolate in color. Fruit (rarely formed) are sausage-shaped violet pods which split open in the fall to reveal small black seeds. The vine spreads primarily vegetatively, but humans and animals spread seeds as well.

**Akebia quinata**

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**TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE**  
*Lonicer sempervirens* is a native woody vine that climbs by twining to about 20' high. It has simple, opposite leaves, green above and white below. Narrow, 2" long, tubular, red flowers are borne in clusters at the end of branches. The flowers produce copious nectar and attract hummingbirds. The red berries are eaten by birds. Flowers are produced from May to October. This plant is best grown on a trellis or other support system in full sun or light shade.

**VIRGINIA CREEPER**  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* is a woody vine in the grape family, uses tendrils with adhesive disks to climb trees and other objects to about 60'. It has alternate, palmately compound leaves, each with 5 leaflets. The leaves turn an attractive red or purplish in the fall. Although often mistaken for and growing with poison ivy, it does not cause dermatitis. The tiny white flowers are not showy. The purple berries are eaten by many birds. This species is widespread and may already be in your yard. If grown as an intentional ornamental, it is best grown on a trellis or other support system in full sun to light shade.

**CROSSVINE**  
*Bignonia capreolata*, is a woody vine that climbs by tendrils to about 50'. It is commonly found in trees along creeks and rivers, but also occurs on upland sites. The opposite leaves have two leaflets, each leaf also has a tendril. Bees and hummingbirds are attracted to the tubular red flowers tipped with five flaring yellow lobes. The 2-3" long flowers are produced in small clusters in leaf axils. It is best grown on a trellis or other support system in full sun or light shade. Some cultivated varieties are not as cold hardy as native strains.

**PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES TO INVASIVE LANDSCAPE PLANTS**

To heighten awareness of invasive plants that threaten Kentucky’s native biodiversity, a Least Wanted plant will be featured in the spring of each year with suggested alternatives.