Description

- An annual vine, native to Southeastern Asia, became estab-
  lished in the United States in the late 1930’s; AKA Devil’s
  Tearthumb.
- Leaves are light green, triangular with downward curving
  barbs on the underside of leaves, petiole, and stem.
- At each node, a cup shaped sheath forms; this is where
  flowers emerge
- Flowers are small, white; metallic blue spherical fruit forms
  in clusters from mid-July until frost.
- Main stems are reddish and can elongate 20 feet or more in
  a single growing season.
- Seeds distributed most commonly by birds, ants, and sev-
  eral mammals.

Impacts

- Quickly invades areas, especially moist sites, with help of rapid growth and animal distribution of seeds; also, can grow over most obstacles.
- Reduces native plant populations by, literally, growing over and covering trees, shrubs and other vegetation, shading them and reducing pho-
  tosynthesis.
- Not very shade tolerant and is not found within closed canopy forests, but harvesting of trees creates openings allowing establishment of Mile-
  a-Minute weed.

Control

- Mowing, pulling and cultivation are adequate for small areas of infestation, checking and retreating sites is needed throughout growing season be-
  cause of re-growth of stems.
- Chemical application is needed for large scale control and provide effective control of this weed.
- Application of a broadleaf weed pre-emergence herbicide in late spring effectively prevents germi-
  nation of seeds.