



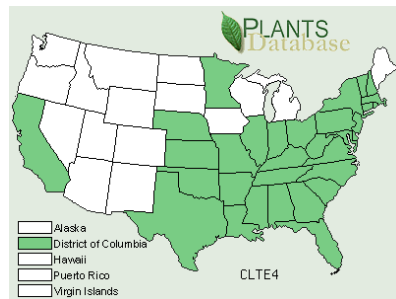
# Sweet Autumn Virginsbower

*Clematis terniflora* DC.

**Common Names:** leatherleaf clematis, yam-leaved clematis, sweet autumn virgin's bower, sweet autumn virginsbower

**Native Origin:** Asia - China, Japan.

**Description:** An evergreen to deciduous climbing vine in the buttercup family (*Ranunculaceae*) growing vigorously to 30 feet. The main stem may reach a diameter of 4 inches. Bark is initially smooth and light brown, later developing long splits with shredding long strips. Twigs are initially green, but change to brown and climb by twining. Leaves are opposite, pinnately compound with five leaflets or trifoliate. Individual leaflets are cordate with entire margins. Both the long petiolules and the rachis commonly wrap around other structures to aid in climbing. Fragrant white flowers with 4 sepals, 1 to 1 1/4 inches across, are borne on branching panicles in late summer and early fall. Small dry brown seeds with a long white feathery plume are borne in thin dandelion-like heads that mature in the fall. Plants reproduce by seeds and vegetatively.



**Habitat:** It is found in forests, open woodland gardens, and semi-shaded forest edge. Plants will grow in light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils that are well-drained to moist. The plant will grow in acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils but is tolerant of very alkaline soil. It can grow in semi-shade or no shade.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in DC, DE, IL, MD, NJ, TN, and VA.

**Ecological Impacts:** The old saying about clematis growth is, "*The first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap.*" This vine prefers disturbed, moist area with taller supporting structures where it forms a dense tangle that can completely overtake supporting structures/plants. It will run rampant in neglected areas and smother native vegetation. This plant will also compete with native vine species for resources.

## Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Cut back and dig up to remove entire plant
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.
- **Note-** Goats will eat it, but prefer it dried or dead to green.

**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm), [www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Clematis+terniflora](http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Clematis+terniflora), [www.discoverlife.org](http://www.discoverlife.org), <http://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/HGIC1104.htm>, <http://tiger.towson.edu/~apacel1/cterniflora.html>