

Clematis terniflora [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Ranunculales	Ranunculaceae

Common name

Synonym

Clematis dioscoreifolia , (Levl. & Vaniot)
Clematis dioscoreifolia , var. *robusta* [(Carr.) Rehd.]
Clematis maximowicziana , (Franch. & Savigny)
Clematis paniculata , (Thunb.)
Clematis flammula , var. *robusta* (Carriere)
Clematis recta , subsp. *paniculata* (Thunb.) Kuntze
Clematis terniflora , var. *robusta* (Carriere) Tamura

Similar species

Summary

Clematis terniflora is a perennial vine that is frequently used as a landscaping plant. It is invasive, however, and displays aggressive growth in many areas of North America. *C. terniflora* can climb nearly 10 metres high, smothering trees and pulling down telephone poles.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Clematis terniflora is a semi-evergreen climber or groundcover with semi-woody stems up to 4 inches. *C. terniflora* displays compound, opposite leaves, of 3-5 leaflets with a glossy, stiff appearance (Floridata, 2007). Leaflets are "ovate or broadly lanceolate to narrowly deltate" in shape (efloras, undated). White, monoecious flowers with 4 sepals on branching panicles. Flowers are bisexual or unisexual within the same inflorescence (efloras, undated). Flowers are star shaped, highly fragrant, and approximately 3.18 centimeters across (Floridata, 2007). *C. terniflora* is an extremely showy flower in summer, to an extent that "vines can be so laden with billowy masses of white flowers that they look like they're covered in snow" (Floridata, 2007). *C. terniflora*'s bark is initially smooth and light brown, later developing long splits and shreddy long strips" (CNR, 2006)

Lifecycle Stages

Clematis terniflora is a perennial plant (CNR, 2006).

Uses

According to Plants for a Future (2007) *Clematis terniflora* is used as a folk treatment for corneal opacity. PFAF (2007) also notes that young shoots of *C. terniflora* can be eaten. *C. terniflora* is widely used as landscape ornamental. USDA-WOW (2007) notes that goats will eat *C. terniflora* but prefer it dried or dead.

Habitat Description

Like many climbers, *Clematis terniflora* prefers its roots in the shade and its foliage in full sun (Floridata, 2007). *C. terniflora* can grow in light (sandy), medium (loamy), or heavy (clay) soils as long as the medium is fairly well drained. *C. terniflora* also tolerates a variety of pH, including highly alkaline settings (PFAF, 2004). Because *C. terniflora* lacks the root hairs or tendrils that most vines use to climb, *C. terniflora* must either lean and be supported on the trees it overtakes, or grow as a thick groundcover (Kemper, 2007). *C. terniflora* frequently occurs in hedgerows, forest margins, slopes, supported by rocks near coastal areas, and in disturbed areas (PFAF, 2004).

Reproduction

Clematis terniflora reproduces both vegetatively and by seed. Ripe seeds germinate within 1-9 months. Internodal cuttings are also successful (PFAF, 2007).

General Impacts

Clematis terniflora is used as a landscape ornamental, although its popularity is decreasing as landscapers realize its invasive potential. *C. terniflora* has the potential to climb 7.6-9.1 metres and smother fully grown trees, or, if necessary support structure is absent, to sprawl along the ground 15-30cm tall and 3 metres wide. Ground cover form of *C. terniflora* will choke out weeds or other plants trying to spring from ground. (Floridata, 2007)

Pathway

Principal source: [Floridata Online database, 2007. *Clematis terniflora*](#);
[Plants for a Future \(PFAF\), Online database 2004. *Clematis terniflora*](#)

Compiler: National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

Review: Kenneth A. Langeland, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Publication date: 2010-08-02

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[27] UNITED STATES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

11 references found for *Clematis terniflora*

Management information

[Withlacoochee Regional Working Group, Working Paper, Undated.](#)

Summary: Provides information on management and detailed locations of *Clematis terniflora* within Florida.

Available from: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/4thlevpgs/Uplands_03-04_withlac.pdf [Accessed 15 June 2007]

General information

[Clemson Extension. Online database 1999. *Clematis terniflora*.](#)

Summary: This website provides horticultural information pertaining to *Clematis terniflora* as well as a discussion of disease issues.

Available from: <http://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/hgic1104.htm> [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[eFloras Online database Undated. *Clematis terniflora*](#)

Summary: Provides detailed physical description of *Clematis terniflora*, as well as detailed native and non-native distribution.

Available from: http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=200007742 [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[Floridata Online database, 2007. *Clematis terniflora*.](#)

Summary: Provides detailed information of *Clematis terniflora*, including physical description, uses, habitat description, and distribution.

Available from: http://www.floridata.com/ref/c/clem_ter.cfm [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2005. Online Database *Clematis terniflora*](#)

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

Available from: http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=18712 [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[Kemper Center for Home Gardening/Missouri Botanical Gardens Online database. *Clematis terniflora*](#)

Summary: This website provides detailed habitat and cultural requirements for *Clematis terniflora*. Also provides list of common names.

Available from: <http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/plant.asp?code=A300> [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[Plants for a Future \(PFAF\), Online database 2004. *Clematis terniflora*](#)

Summary: Provides detailed habitat and culture requirements for *Clematis terniflora*. Also provides information on traditional medicinal and edible uses for the species.

Available from: <http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Clematis+terniflora> [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[Taafe, Gerald. The Ups and Downs of the Clematis Clan. The Japan Times. Published 14 September 2000.](#)

Summary: This article discusses the horticultural benefits of the *Clematis* genus in its native range.

Available from: <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/member/member.html?fe20000914gt.htm> [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[United States Department of Agriculture/Forest Service. Weed of the Week Publication. 15 January 2007.](#)

Summary: This document provides information pertaining to the habitat, ecological impact, and distribution of *Clematis terniflora*.

Available from: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/sweet-autumn-virginsbower.pdf [Accessed 15 June 2007]

[USDA-NRCS \(National Resources Conservation Services\), 2007. Plants profile *Clematis terniflora* DC.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CLTE4> [Accessed 12 January 2008]

[Virginia Tech/College of Natural Resources Dendrology Fact Sheets. Online database 2006. *Clematis terniflora*.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus2/factsheet.cfm?ID=494> [Accessed 15 June 2007]