

*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

## ALIEN RANGE

[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](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](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](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](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](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]