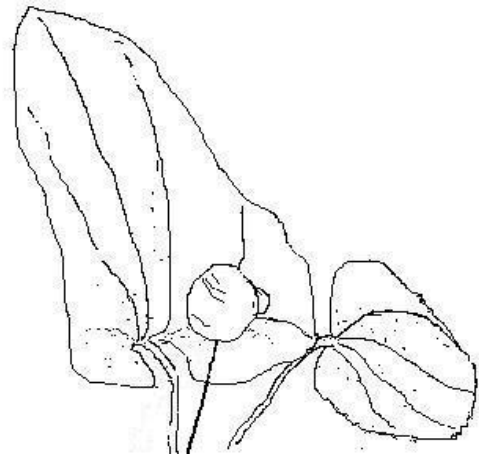


***Chinese Yam (Dioscorea batatas)***

“Chinese Yam is a creeping and long-climbing vine that may reach up to 5 meters in height given support from trees and shrubs. The vines twine from left to right with 2- to 3-inch wide shiny heart-shaped leaves having arc-shaped veins.

- Leaves may vary from heart-shaped to arrowhead-like with lobes at the leaf base. The stems are purplish to red.
- The small yellowish-white flowers arise from base of the leaves. They are bell-shaped and may have a spicy fragrance like cinnamon.
- Pea-to marble-sized bulbils like small potatoes occur at leaf nodes in late summer. These may become potato-sized in other regions.
- Ripe bulbils drop readily at slightest touch.
- The seeds are in a triangle shaped capsule.



Chinese Yam is originally from Asia.  
Chinese Yam is a threat because:

- The vine is fast-growing (up to 1 inch/day at peak).
- It covers trees, shrubs, ground vegetation, and structures.
- It reproduces fast starting in late June, and can spread rapidly along forest edges and openings.”

*Source: Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plant Manual drawing adapted by Leslie Marra from a photo by Jack Ranney, online at <<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/eppc/DIOP.html>>, accessed 10/11/05*

*Source: Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere, online at <<http://samab.org/Focus/Invasive/about.html>>, accessed 10/12/05*