

Cynanchum louiseae

Black Swallowwort

Invasive to Maine

Upland
Forests, Fields, Woodland edges

Leaves



VS user gbh



Look for leaves that are 5-13 cm in length. Leaves are opposite, simple, oval and smooth. The ends of the leaves are pointed.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



VS user gbh



Look for a non-branching vine that grows up to 2 m in length. It sprawls and grows over and around other plants. It dies back to the ground in the winter.

Stem



VS user gbh



Black swallowwort is a single-stemmed plant, however these single stems will wind around each other, or around other plants.

Seasonal Change



VS user gbh



Flowers are star-shaped, 0.6 cm across, and have 5 petals. They are dark purple to black, and have white hairs. Seed pods open with a downy material.

Similar Species

Black swallowwort is similar to pale swallowwort. Black swallowwort has dark green, shiny leaves, and purple to black flowers. Pale swallowwort has glossy, medium green to warm yellow leaves flowers with pink or red flowers. Both species are invasive.

Did You Know?

Monarch butterflies will lay their eggs on black swallowwort, thinking it is milkweed. This is fatal for the monarch eggs! Studies show that laying eggs on black swallowwort typically kills the eggs.

Researched and created by Ruthie Hawley

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.