

School-to-Nature

Virginia Creeper (Vine)



- This vine is often mistaken for Poison Ivy, but is easy to identify as safer because it has FIVE leaves on each stem instead of three. Even so, some people are sensitive to this plant as well, so do not touch the sap.
- It is a member of the Grape family, with tiny greenish flowers in spring, and small hard purplish-black berries in fall. Leaves turn deep red to burgundy in autumn.
- It is a very strong climber, with tiny adhesive pads that attach to trees in the woods; it can grow up to 98 feet in length.
- The berries contain oxalic acid, moderately toxic to humans, & other mammals; but they are an important winter food source for birds.
- Native Americans used this plant to help with diarrhea, urinary problems, swelling, and lockjaw.
- You will find Virginia Creeper on Conservancy lands at Tabor Woods and Trout Ponds Prairie.