

Devil's Snare

Devil's Snare is composed of a mass of soft, springy tendrils and vines that possess some sense of touch. Devil's Snare uses its creepers and tendrils to ensnare anyone who touches it, binding their arms and legs and eventually choking them. The harder a person struggles against Devil's Snare, the faster and more tightly it binds them; if they relax, it will not kill them as quickly.

Devil's Snare prefers a dark, damp environment and shrinks away from fire.

<http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/mileaminute.html>

Scientific Name: *Polygonum perfoliatum*

Common Names: Mile-A-Minute Weed, Mile-A-Minute Vine, Asiatic Tearthumb, Devil's Tail, Mile-A- Minute Knotweed

Habitat:

Prefers sunny sites with moist soil. Disturbed areas, roadsides, woodland edges, orchards, nurseries, forest clear cuts, right-of-ways, stream banks, wet meadows

Key ID Features:

- Light blue-green leaves are triangular and 1-3" (2-8cm) wide. (Figure 1)
- Thin, jointed, highly branched stems are green to reddish-green in color.
- Curving spines are present on the leaf stalks, stems, and underside of leaves along the veins. (Figure 2)
- A leaf-like cup of tissue (ocrea) surrounds the stem at the base of the leaf stalk. (Figure 3)
- Flowers are inconspicuous.
- Metallic blue, berry-like, pea-sized (5mm) fruits are present from mid July through the first frost. (Figure 4)
- Plants are annuals that form a highly branched vine capable of growing over trees and shrubs. (Figure 5)

Venomous Tentacula — Spiky, dark red, it has teeth and it reaches its vines out toward people. Cat's claw *Uncaria tomentosa* ; a woody vine native to the Amazon rainforest and other tropical areas of South and Central America. Cat's claw is a thorny vine that can climb as high as 100 feet. The cat's claw plant is a climbing shrub (vine-like) with claw-like thorns on the stems. The inner bark and roots are used in medicinal preparations. Cat's claw has a long history of use as a folk medicine by native peoples to treat intestinal complaints, asthma, wounds, cancer, tumors, arthritis, inflammations, diabetes, and irregularities of the menstrual cycle, fevers, ulcers, dysentery, and rheumatism.

Gillyweed — Native to the Mediterranean, this water plant looks like a bundle of slimy, greyish-green rat tails. When eaten, gives a person gills to breathe underwater and gives them webbed hands and feet for swimming > Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/Programs/wq/plants/weeds/milfoil.html> is an attractive plant with feathery underwater foliage.. Eurasian watermilfoil, hereafter called milfoil, originates from Europe and Asia, but was introduced to North America many years ago and is now found over much of the United States.

Bubotuber — looks like a thick, black, giant slug (it even squirms slightly, although it sticks vertically out of the soil) with many large shiny swellings on it that are filled with a yellow-green

pus that smells like petrol — ? Four O'Clock, Marvel of Peru
Mirabilis jalapa <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=MIJA>

Fanged Geranium — This plant will bite humans. Think of a geranium with fangs. *Acacia cornigera* <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ACCO5>

Honking daffodil — From use in book, it would look a lot like a daffodil, but perhaps the flowers are more hornlike. Trumpet lilies
<http://www.gardenguides.com/plants/info/flowers/bulbs/trumpet.asp>

Flutterby bush — This kind of bush quivers and shakes. *Mimosa pudica*
<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/pdf/shrubs/Mimosa%20pudica.pdf>

Mandrake (*Mandragora*) — The Mandrake root is a powerful restorative. It forms an essential part of most antidotes, including one for Petrification. Mandrake seedlings are tufty little plants, purplish green in colour with what look like tiny babies growing where the roots would be. These creatures grow and develop over the course of several months until they mature and can be harvested and used for potions. The cry of the Mandrake is fatal to humans, so special care must be taken when growing them. Even as a baby, the Mandrake's howls can knock a person out for a couple of hours. ? Yam (*Dioscorea batatas*)

This is a hardy perennial species from China and its root is delicious baked. The only drawback is that it can be 3 foot long in good soils with the thickest part of the root at the bottom - quite a task to harvest, which is probably why it is not commercially cultivated. Propagation is either by replanting the top portion of the root, stem cuttings in late spring or by tubercles - baby tubers that are freely formed in the leaf axil of older plants treated like seed, being sown in pots in the greenhouse, preferably as soon as ripe.

Mimulus mimbletonia — Very rare, native to Assyria, this plant resembles a grey cactus, but with boils where the spines would have been. The boils are a defensive mechanism that spews Stinksap upon contact. Maybe the stinking toe tree
<http://stjohnbeachguide.com/Stinking%20Toe.htm>