

Actinidia polygama, Silver Vine

Silver Vine is in the same family as Hardy Kiwi. It has been grown as an alternative to catnip and produces the same euphoric response in felines. Like Hardy Kiwi, the edible nature of the fruit have led to interest from the permaculture industry. Populations of this plant are currently in Westchester County but are under management.

Population Status: Confirmed- Lower Hudson PRISM.

Description: *A. polygama* is another liana, a woody vine that roots in the soil. The leaves have red petioles, and are alternate like Hardy Kiwi, though they have a more silvery tint except when fruit is present, when they are primarily green. The fruits are orange and egg shaped. This vine grows in the carpeting pattern associated with invasive vines.

Control: Small vines can be pulled, but no real effective manual control for larger vines.

Look-alikes: Hardy Kiwi (see above) Oriental Bittersweet (invasive but widespread) and Wild Grape (native).

Flower Time and Description: Small, five-petaled white flowers in the months of June and July (apx. 2.5 cm)

