

## *Dioscorea polystachya*, Chinese Yam

Invading both shady and open areas of the Eastern US, this is the only non-native yam that made the tier list but not the only one to look out for. Keep a search image for native yams in mind but report anything that looks suspicious.

**Population Status:** Confirmed- Lower Hudson PRISM, Scattered from VT to KS.

**Description:** The primary difference between non-native yams and native is leaf shape. Species typically have alternate leaves. Chinese yam has three-lobed leaves with prominent parallel veins. The yam family is known for creating tubers, either beneath the ground, or aerial potato-like tubers. Chinese Yam produces both.

**Control:** Not feasible, tubers are deep and large and most likely will not be removed completely if digging up is attempted.

**Look-alikes:** Native yams have the same growth pattern as invasive yams but have a chordate leaf with a smooth margin.

**Flower Time and Description:** Late summer-early fall, small white-green flowers that smell vaguely of cinnamon.

