

Hardy kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*)

Family name: Actinidia (Actinidiaceae)

Native range: Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *mildly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Deciduous woody, twining vine
- Fast growing, 15'-20' annually
- Bark brownish with lenticels
- Raised leaf scar, looks like an eye
- 'Issai' cultivar typically planted—requires no pollinator to set abundant crops of fruit



Fall color

Leaves:

- Alternate, sharply serrate
- Dark green, shiny
- Oval, 3"-5" long
- Red petiole (leaf stem)
- Remains green late into autumn, occasionally turning yellow before leaf drop



Flowers:

- Whitish-green with purple anthers
- Fragrant
- 5 petals and 5 sepals
- About 1" wide
- Blooms June-July



Fruit:

- 1" long—grape-sized
- Fleshy, greenish
- Many-seeded
- Edible but not very flavorful
- Male and female plants needed for fruit set



Habitat:

- Forest, shrubland, meadow, and landscaping
- Sun to shade

Commercial availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Kiwifruit (*Actinidia chinensis*)

- Cultivated crop in southern states
- Larger fruit, 3" long



Actinidia chinensis



Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

- Invasive, twining vine
- Leaves similar to hardy kiwi
- Fruit orange, inside thin, yellow, papery skins
- Fruits at leaf axils
- Mature bark is gray with lenticels



American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)

- Native, similar to above
- Fruiting at ends of branches