

Traveler's Joy

(Clematis vitalba) or Old Man's Beard

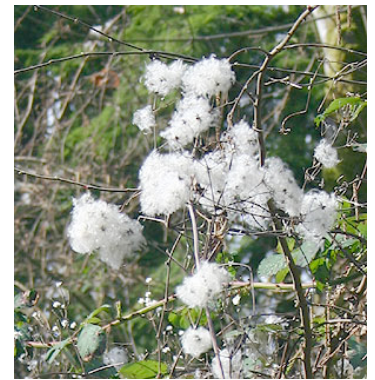


photo by Jan Samanek, State Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org



Characteristics

- Vine plant that twists around trees, shrubs, and fences.
- They can grow up to 100 ft and can be as thick as 60 inches in diameter.
- Common in urban and residential areas, but is quickly spreading to wooded areas.
- Aggressive climber
- During Summer months, this invasive plant sprouts white or pale yellow flowers.
- In Winter, it has feathery white seed heads.
- Leaves are arranged in five leaflets surrounding the bud.
- Spreads by the wind blowing the seed pods.
- There are many other varieties of the Clematis plant and most are non-invasive, but Traveler's Joy is just as dangerous to the environment as English Ivy.



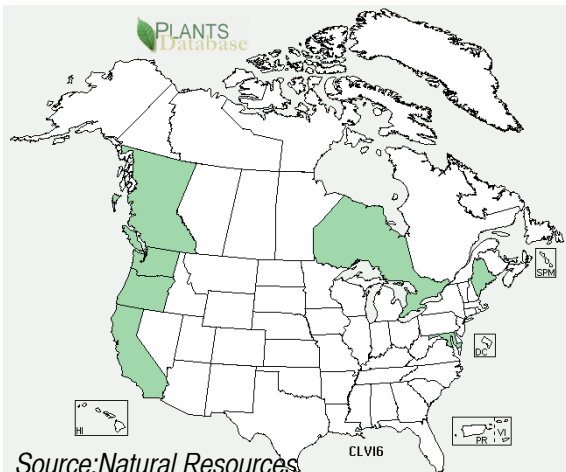
Photograph by Debra Teachout-Teashon

(McCann. Rainy Side Gardeners)

- Branch of the Ranunculaceae family.

Introduction and Distribution

- Native to most of Europe (North to central England), South Western Asia, and Africa.
- Invaded not only the United States, but Canada, and Poland, and New Zealand as well in the 1920's.
- Has now spread across British Columbia, Ontario, down through Washington, Oregon, and California, and has even cropped up in Maryland and Maine.



Environmental Concerns and Prevention

- Starves trees and bushes of sunlight.
- Creates dense mats of vegetation on the ground, preventing new plant growth.

To control:

- If growing on trees, cut and remove all vines around the trunk.
- If on the ground, manual pulling or digging out the plant and dispose with yard waste.
- Using herbicide is optional. For more information, contact the Clackamas River Basin Council.

Works Cited:

McCann, Mark N. "Clematis Vitalba." *Rainy Side Gardeners*. 2010. Web. 7 Nov. 2010. <http://www.rainyside.com/features/pest_watch/Pest_Clematis.html>.

"Old Man's Beard/Traveler's Joy." *East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District: Weeds to Know*. East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District, 2010. Web. 6 Nov. 2010. <<http://emswcd.org/weeds/weeds-toknow/132-old-mans-beard-travelers-joy-clematis-vitalba->>>.

(<http://www.synergy.co.nz>), International Limited. "Issg Database: Ecology of Clematis Vitalba." *IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)*. 15 Dec. 2005. Web. 06 Nov. 2010. <<http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=157&fr=1&sts=&lang=EN>>.