

PALE SWALLOW WORT

Cynanchum rossicum



Cornell University Extension

Mature Height	3 to 8 foot twining vines	Soil Type	Upland areas
Mature Spread	Colonizes in Clumps	Flower Color	Creamy Pink to Reddish Brown
Mature Form	Twining Vines	Foliage Color	Medium Green
Growth Rate	Medium	Fall Color	Dies Back in Fall
Sun Exposure	All light conditions		
Soil Moisture	All conditions but prefers moist		

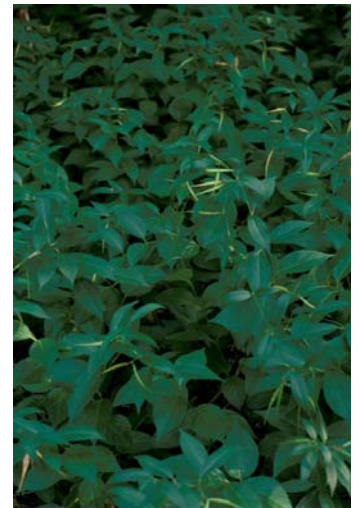
Pale Swallow Wort is a long lived perennial, twinning herbaceous plant. It is found in upland areas of the landscape. The plants generally grow in clumps of several stems and form extensive patches. These clumps shade out native plants. The small (1/4 inch) five petal star shaped flowers are creamy pink to reddish brown in color. The fruits are small (2 inch) pods similar milkweed pods. It is a member of the milkweed family. Seeds are also similar to the common milkweed. When Pale Swallow Wort takes over large portions of old meadows, the native songbird population has been found to decrease. It is often found in association with shallow soils over limestone bedrock. Manual control requires complete removal of the plant and roots. Chemical control is achieved by use of systemic herbicide such as glyphosate as a foliar spray. Do not spray until the plants are beginning to bloom - otherwise not enough leaves are present to get a complete kill of the root system. Mowing even several times a year will not kill swallow wort. Mowing can be used to prevent formation of seed pods.



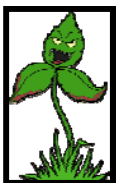
Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources



Photo by R. J. Hay



Purdue University



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

