

PUPPLE WINTER CREEPER

Euonymus fortunei



Hoosier Heartland RC & D

Mature Height	Climbs up to 70 feet	Soil Type	All types
Mature Spread	Can cover several acres	Flower Color	Whitish with red/orange
Mature Form	Ground cover and on vertical structures	Foliage Color	Glossy Green
Growth Rate	Very Rapid	Fall Color	Green to purple Evergreen
Sun Exposure	Tolerates heavy shade		
Soil Moisture	Prefers moist but grows in all types		

The traits that made the Purple Winter Creeper a great ornamental have now caused it to become a highly invasive plant. Those traits included rapid growth, evergreen color, glossy leaves and tolerance to harsh growing conditions. It out competes native plants by blocking sunlight, depleting soil moisture and nutrients, and by forming such a dense mat that it impedes or stops the growth of native plants. Vines growing vertical on trees can eventually overtop them and stop photosynthesis by the tree. Control is best achieved by injuring the plant with a weed eater, lawnmower or other tool and spraying the plant with a systemic herbicide such as glyphosate or triclopyr.



Hoosier Heartland RC & D Photos



Fact sheet developed by 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.

