

Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) Control Herbicide Options

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Brief

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), also known as five-leaved ivy and Victoria ivy, is in the *Vitaceae* (grape) family. It is native to eastern and central North America. Virginia creeper can occupy our SE US forests and can be a competitor in pine stands. Virginia creeper is a deciduous vine that can “climb” trees up to 50 feet or greater heights (Photo 1) or in clumps growing on shrubs (Photo 2). If not controlled, it can kill trees by canoping over the crowns and blocking sunlight to the tree’s foliage for photosynthesis. The leaves are palmately compound, composed of five leaflets (occasionally but rarely three) ranging from 3 to 8 inches in diameter with serrated (toothed) edges (Photo 3). The flowers are small and greenish, produced in late spring, and mature in late summer or early fall into small hard purplish-black berries ¼ to 1/3 inch in diameter. The berries are moderately toxic to humans and other mammals. The fruit (Photo 4) seeds are bird dispersed. Virginia creeper control is best done during active growth periods from mid-June to early October in Georgia. If Virginia creeper has climbed up into the trees, a prescribed burn, or cutting the vines to groundline may be needed to get the climbing vine down to the ground where foliar treatment can be made to new regrowth after the burn or cutting.

Herbicides labeled to Control Virginia Creeper

I. Pre-plant to Establish Loblolly, Longleaf, or Slash Pine

Add one of the following to the summer (June - October) site prep tank (in many cases imazapyr is the primary herbicide in the tank for site prep)

ARSENAL® AC (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)

- ◆ A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
- ◆ Apply at 16 to 24 oz/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
- ◆ Application timing is from mid-July to early October (prior to leaf color change)

CHOPPER® GEN2 (BASF; 27% imazapyr; 2 lb per gal)

- ◆ A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
- ◆ Apply at 32 to 48 oz/ac
- ◆ Application timing is from mid-July to early October (prior to leaf color change)

FORESTRY GARLON® XRT (DOW AgroSciences 89.3% triclopyr)

- ◆ A FOLIAR active only herbicide (Garlon 3A, 4 and 4Ultra can be used as well)
- ◆ Apply at 1.25 – 2.5 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil (if applied alone) or 1 – 1 ½ qts/ac when applied with a site prep rate of Chopper OR Arsenal

No mature hardwood border trees restrictions with Garlon as long as one does not get products on hardwood foliage. If Imazapyr (Chopper or Arsenal or a generic equal) is used with these products, stay 1 to 2 tree heights away from mature hardwoods on site borders.

II. Post-plant over-the-top application in Loblolly Pine Stands

ARSENAL® AC (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)

- ◆ A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
- ◆ Broadcast apply at 8 - 16 oz/ac + 1/4% non-ionic surfactant AFTER August 15th of the 1st growing season in areas where Virginia creeper is present
- ◆ Application timing is from mid-July to early October (prior to leaf color change)
- ◆ Consider using Garlon as a DIRECT spray treatment over Arsenal where there are sensitive, desirable plants near-by as Arsenal is soil + foliar active and if the applicator gets some product on the ground at this concentration in a small area, desirable plants may die.

III. Post-plant over-the-top application in Longleaf and Slash Pine Stands

ARSENAL® AC (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)

- ◆ A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
- ◆ Broadcast apply to the foliage of Virginia creeper where it is present at 6 - 12 oz/ac with NO surfactant. Apply AFTER 15 August of the 2nd growing season through the 5th growing season
- ◆ Application timing is from mid-August to early October (prior to leaf color change)
- ◆ Consider using Garlon as a DIRECT spray treatment over Arsenal where there are sensitive, desirable plants near-by as Arsenal is soil + foliar active and if the applicator gets some product on the ground at this concentration in a small area, desirable plants may die.

IV. Post-plant DIRECT spray in Loblolly, Longleaf, and Slash Pine Stands

ARSENAL® AC (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)

- ◆ A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
- ◆ Apply at 1% solution in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
- ◆ DIRECT spray Arsenal, water and surfactant solution thoroughly wetting all foliage (just before the point of runoff), especially the sapling top. DO NOT spray desirable plants.
- ◆ A backpack sprayer, 12-volt operated 15 or 25 gallon tank sprayer (on an ATV or tractor) or PTO driven tractor mounted sprayer using a medium droplet size.
- ◆ Application timing is from mid-July to early October (prior to leaf color change)
- ◆ Consider using Garlon over Arsenal where there are sensitive, desirable plants near-by as Arsenal is soil + foliar active and if the applicator gets some product on the ground at this concentration in a small area, desirable plants may die.

FORESTRY GARLON® XRT (DOW AgroSciences 89.3% triclopyr)

- ◆ A foliar active only herbicide (Garlon 3A, 4 and 4Ultra can be used as well)
- ◆ Apply at 2 – 3% solution in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
- ◆ Apply to *Braccharis* foliage as a DIRECT spray
- ◆ DO NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- ◆ June – October application (with temperature less than 90 degrees F)



Photos 1 and 2. The photo on the left is Virginia creeper growing up a tree. The photo on the right is Virginia creeper growing along the ground.



Photos 3 and 4. The photo on the left are the leaves of Virginia creeper. The photo on the right is the fruit of Virginia creeper. Note the new green growth on the left photo. This is a good time to apply the listed above herbicide(s) for best control after initial spring growth.



Photo 5. Fall red leaves color of Virginia creeper. This stage (time of year) is too late for best foliar applied, foliar active herbicides spray control.

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