

Alana Ellis

## Cinnamon Vine Management



Photos: [North Carolina Extension Gardener Toolbox](#)

### **Description:**

Cinnamon Vine is the common name for this plant and *Dioscorea polystachya* is the scientific name. It is commonly known as the Chinese yam and it is a species of flowering plant in the yam family. It is used for culinary and cultural uses and now it is an invasive species spreading from eastern to central United States. It is an aggressive vine and covers and kills vegetation including trees. It spreads by seeds and can be seen from June to September.

### **Habitat:**

It is native to China and East Asia and found mostly in moist habitat types. It can be found at the edges of rich and bottomland forests, roadside, and along streambanks. It can also climb trees.

### **Control:**

Mechanical Control Methods:

Mowing can control the spread of cinnamon vine but will not fully control it. The only way to fully control it is to make sure the root of the vine is out of the ground and this can be hard because they have deep tuberous roots. This method would be most effective when the plant is young, because it would be easier to pull them out of the ground. During this time it would be the months of April and May.

Chemical Control Methods:

“Herbicides have been shown to be effective. Triclopyr is successful as a 2 percent solution. Glyphosate also may be effective at a 2 percent solution, but it is possible that higher concentrations will be required. The best time to apply is after the leaves have expanded, but before the bulbils ripen.” ([Missouri Department of Conservation](#)) Bulbil germination primarily occurs in the spring, so putting down

chemicals during March and April will have the most effect for these vines not to grow. ([Walck, Cofer, and Hidayati, 2010](#))

#### **Sources:**

*Chinese Yam*. (n.d.). Midwest Invasive Species Information Network.

<https://www.misin.msu.edu/facts/detail/?project=misin&id=62>

*Chinese yam control*. (n.d.). Missouri Department of Conservation.

<https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/invasive-plants/chinese-yam-control>

*Dioscorea polystachya* (*Chinese Yam, Cinnamon Vine*) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant

*Toolbox*. (n.d.). <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/dioscorea-polystachya/>

*Understanding the germination of bulbils from an ecological perspective: a case study on Chinese yam*

(*Dioscorea polystachya*). (September 2010) *Annals of Botany*. [untitled \(silverchair.com\)](#)