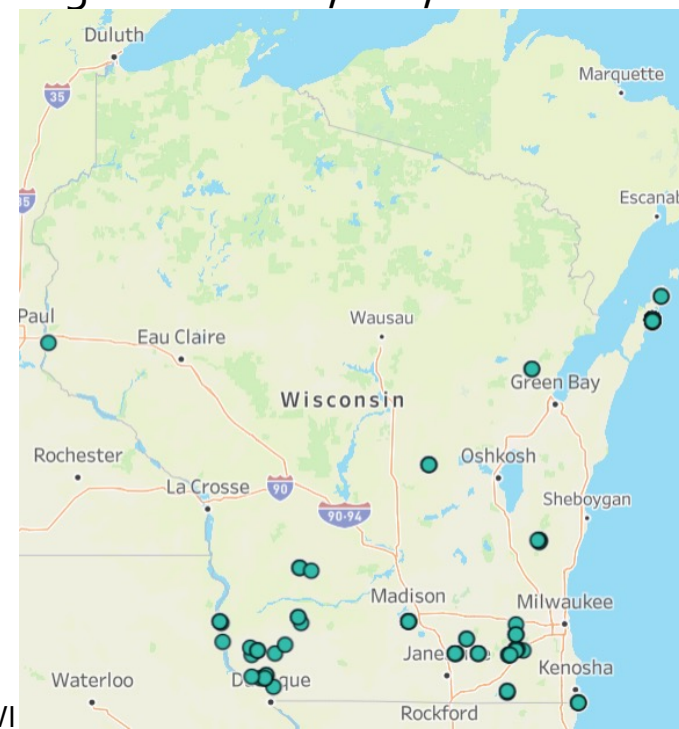


Swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum* spp.)



- Twining vines with milky sap and small, blackish or pinkish flowers
- Habitats they invade:
 - Forests
 - Grasslands
- Status
 - Wisconsin: *V. rossicum* (Prohibited)
V. nigrum (Restricted/Prohibited)
 - Regulated in: IN, MN, OH



Map shows range of *V. nigrum*.
V. rossicum has not been found in WI



Swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum* spp.)

Leaves opposite, simple

- 3-4" long, oval, glossy, dark green
- Leaf margins are entire; milky sap present
- Stems twine around other vegetation





Swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum* spp.)

Flower

Comparing the flowers of black swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*) and pale swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*) is the best way to tell apart the two species. The leaves and stems of each species are very similar to one another.

Both species have small clusters of five-petaled flowers with a domed structure in the middle. They resemble tiny milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) flowers.



Black swallowwort petals are **hairy** on the top and **triangular**. The petals are usually dark purple or **blackish**

Pale swallowwort petals are **smooth** on the top and more **long-tapered**. The petals are usually **pinkish** or light brown

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Swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum* spp.)



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Fruit

Fruits in both species are pods that release numerous fluffy seeds, much like milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.)



Swallowwort look alike



Swallowworts somewhat resemble **native** milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) because their flowers are similar, and they all have milky sap. However, milkweeds are **upright plants that never twine**, and they bear their flowers in large, usually rounded clusters.

