## Invasive yam look alikes

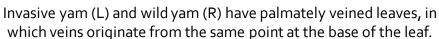


Invasive yams (*Dioscorea oppositifolia* and *D. polystachya*) may be confused with wild yam, greenbriars, and other herbaceous vines with heart-shaped to arrowhead-shaped leaves.

	Name	Stems	Leaves	Flowers	Fruit
	Indian + Chinese yam (Dioscorea oppositifolia + D. polystachya)	Twines counterclockwise; aerial bulbils in leaf axils; underground tubers	Opposite, may be alternate or whorled in upper nodes; spear to oval or heart shaped with sharp tip; 7-9 veins radiating from base of leaf (palmate veins)	Greenish white flowers on spikes in leaf axils; 3 petals + 3 sepals; cinnamon fragrance	Winged seeds
	Wild yam ( <i>Dioscorea villosa</i> )	Twines clockwise; grooved or narrowly winged; lack tendrils; <b>no</b> <b>bulbils</b> ; underground rhizomes	Mostly alternate, may be whorled; heart shaped; 7-11 veins radiating from base of leaf (palmate veins); leaf edges may be wavy; short hairs on lower surface	<b>Dangling clusters</b> of tiny yellowish to greenish white flowers; 3 petals + 3 sepals	3-winged capsule
	Greenbriars (Smilax species)	No bulbils; usually tendrils from base of leaves	Ovate to shallow heart-shaped leaves;  palmate veins	Round umbels of flowers	Dark blue berries in round clusters
	Morning glories ( <i>Ipomoea spp.</i> ), Bindweeds ( <i>Calystegia spp.</i> + <i>Convolvulus spp.</i> ), Buckwheat ( <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> ) + others			Leaves heart-shaped to arrowhead shaped;  pinnate veins.  Flowers/fruits variable. No bulbils.	









Morning glories and other yam look alikes have pinnately veined leaves, in which the veins branch off multiple points along the mid rib.