

# CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

## *Invasive Plant Fact Sheet*

### Five-leaf akebia (*Akebia quinata*)

Also called: Chocolate vine



**Family name:** Lardizabala family (Lardizabalaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**General:** Deciduous to evergreen, depending on the climate. Twining woody-stemmed vine that can grow 20 to 40 feet in one year.

**Leaves:** Alternate, untoothed, palmately compound with 5 or occasionally fewer oval stalked leaflets.

**Flowers:** Purplish-brown flowers appearing in May. Flowers emerge from leaf axils in racemes. Individual flowers are one inch across and may smell of sweet chocolate.

**Fruit:** Large, soft, sausage-shaped pods 2.25 to 4 inches in length. Pulp is whitish with many tiny black seeds. Ripening in September.

**Look-alikes:** None.

**Habitat:** Forest, forest edge, garden.



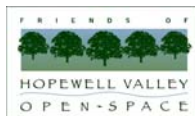
**Threats to native habitats:** Fiveleaf akebia is a vigorous vine that grows as a groundcover and climbs shrubs and trees by twining. Its dense growth crowds out native plants.



**NJ Status:** Five-leaf akebia is uncommon. However, it is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**Commercial Availability:** Not found.

Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org/>  
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/akqu1.htm>  
[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d9/Akebia\\_quinata02.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d9/Akebia_quinata02.jpg)  
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 407.



**Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST)** is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, [www.fohvos.org](http://www.fohvos.org) or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, [www.urwa.org](http://www.urwa.org).

