

Skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*)



GROWTH HABIT

Skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*) is a perennial twining vine with a woody rootstock. The leaves and stems have a foul smelling odor that increases when crushed. **Flowering** occurs in the late summer and fruit set occurs in the fall. **Leaves** are opposite, oval to lance-shaped, and often lobed at the base with entire margins. Leaves are 1 to 4 inches long with conspicuous stipules at the leaf base. **Flowers** are small and grayish pink or lilac in color with the petals fusing into a tube with five spreading lobes. Flowers occur on long curvy clusters and may be covered in hairs. **Fruits** are glossy, brown and nearly round, approximately 0.3 inches wide. Each fruit has two seeds. **Seeds** are black, roundish, and often dotted with tiny, white, needle-shaped crystals called raphides.

DISTRIBUTION IN FLORIDA

Found throughout the state with the highest concentration in West-Central Florida and only sparsely in southeast Florida.

RUBIACEAE FAMILY

**Table 1. Herbicide options for Skunk vine.**  
 Herbicides are expressed on a (% v/v) by product basis.  
 The label is the law. Always refer to product label before use.

HERBICIDE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS	PRODUCT(S)	-----Recommended Approach -----	
		FOLIAR	CUT STUMP
AMINOPYRALID	MILESTONE	0.15-0.25%	NR
CLOPYRALID <sup>1</sup>	LONTREL	0.25%	NR
TRICLOPYR AMINE	GARLON 3A	1-3%	NR
TRICLOPYR ESTER	GARLON 4	2%	10%
IMAZAPIC	PLATEAU	1-1.5%	NR

NR= Not Recommended  
<sup>1</sup>Lontrel is labeled for turf and ornamental sites and noncrop areas including roadsides, parks, recreation areas and unimproved rough turf areas.

NOTES SECTION

**Herbicide Notes for Skunk vine**

- Always consult the herbicide label for specific concentration recommendations and restrictions. Aminopyralid and clopyralid are the most selective treatments available. With any herbicide treatment, a single foliar application to dense infestations will generally kill top-growth, but resprouting from the lateral vines and root crowns is likely.
- Cut stump treatment is rarely an option, except for extremely large climbing stems. The tendency of the lateral vines to establish new root crowns at the nodes makes it difficult to treat all targets using this approach.

**Adjuvant Considerations:** Surfactants are often required for foliar treatments to improve herbicide absorption. A high quality nonionic surfactant is effective with these herbicides.

**Seasonality of Treatments:** Skunk vine is susceptible to winter kill. Avoid treatments if cold weather is expected within a week. Allow plants to reach full leaf expansion in the spring prior to initiating treatment. While fall is a very effective treatment time, treatments should be applied by early flowering to prevent seed production if possible.

**Specific Hydrologic Considerations:** Skunk vine can be found in a diversity of habitats including uplands and wetlands but often prefers forest edges and openings and wetland margins. Aminopyralid is labeled for use in uplands and seasonally dry wetlands but cannot be applied when standing water is present. If this is the case, switching to an aquatic labeled triclopyr or glyphosate product is recommended.

**Specific Considerations for each Herbicide for Potential Non-Target Damage**

- Aminopyralid and clopyralid are most injurious to plants in the Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Solanaceae, and Polygonaceae. While aminopyralid is safe to apply under many non-leguminous weedy species, directed applications are highly recommended.
- Clopyralid is primarily used in turf and ornamental settings due to its selectivity. Consult the label for sensitive horticultural species.
- Imazapic selectivity has not been well defined in Florida. Although warm season grasses are generally tolerant, it may injure or kill many woody and forb species.
- Triclopyr ester may be volatile at temps > 85 F.

**Retreatment Interval Consideration:** The seed bank of Skunk vine is generally less than two years, so aggressive treatments for two to three years may almost completely eliminate local infestations. Annual retreatment for two years may also improve kill of mature resprouting individuals following initial treatment. Seedling recruitment often occurs over the spring and summer while flowering occurs in the late summer to fall. Following intensive efforts, it is important to monitor sites for new recruitment from bird dispersed seed.

**Calculations for % v/v: (Volumes must be in the same units, i.e., gallons, ounces, liters, etc).**

$\% \text{ v/v} = (\text{Volume of herbicide product} / \text{total herbicide plus carrier volume}) * 100\%$

Reference Table for % v/v

% V/V	Ounces of herbicide to add for 1 gallon (128 oz) total mix size
0.25	0.32
0.5	0.64
1.0	1.28
2.0	2.56
5.0	6.4
10.0	12.8
20.0	25.6