

Mucuna pruriens

VELVETBEAN

Fabaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

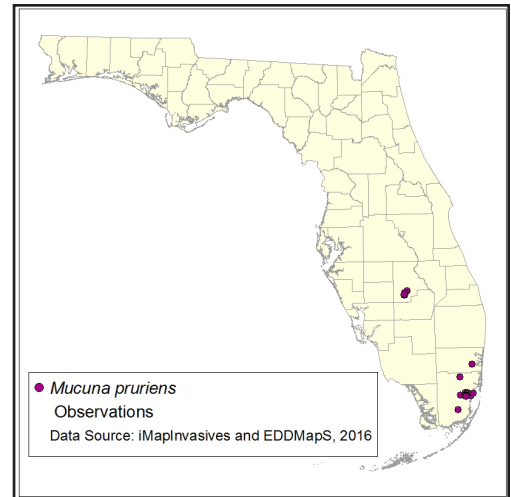
IFAS Assessment

North	OK
Central	CAUTION
South	CAUTION

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9b-11

Growth Habit: Annual Herb

Origin: Southern China, eastern India.



Pankaj Oudhia, 2008-2013

Description: Herbaceous, vigorous annual. Stems twining, extending up to 18 m in length. Leaves large, trifoliate, lateral leaflets conspicuously asymmetrical, 7?15 cm long, 5?12 cm wide, terminal leaflet symmetrical, somewhat smaller. Inflorescence an axillary raceme, up to 32 cm long, many-flowered, flowers pale purple or white. Fruit pods oblong, 4?13 cm long, 1?2 cm wide, usually more or less S-shaped, finely pubescent with white to light brown hairs. In wild forms (var. *pruriens* rather than var. *utilis*), hairs contain skin irritation-causing mucunain; cultivated varieties are non-stinging. Pods contain up to 7 oblong-ellipsoid seeds, 1?1.9 cm long, 0.8?1.3 cm wide, 4?6.5 mm thick and of variable colour (black, maroon, creamy, white, grey, beige, brown, and mottled), hilum surrounded by a prominent, cream-coloured aril.

Habitat: Ruderal areas.

Florida Introduction Date: Specimen vouchered in 1896

Control Methods: Manual: hand pull vines and seedlings..

Chemical: Foliar (glyphosate)..

Useful Resources:

Dave's Garden. 2013. PlantFiles: Bengal bean, cow itch, *Mucuna pruriens*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/75900/>. Accessed on December 11, 2013.

Comments: Tropical legume used as a forage/green manure. Hairs on fruit and calyx can cause skin irritation/itchiness. Vouchered Monroe to Palm Beach and Lee Co.