

Parthenocissus tricuspidata - Boston Ivy (*Vitaceae*)

Parthenocissus tricuspidata is a lush and vigorous climbing vine with glossy summer foliage and rich yellow, red, and burgundy autumn foliage.

FEATURES

Form

- large climbing semi-woody vine
- maturing at least to the height and width of the structure upon which it climbs, sometimes over 100'
- climbing vine growth habit
- rapid growth rate (3-10' per year once established)

Culture

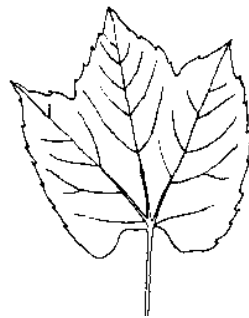
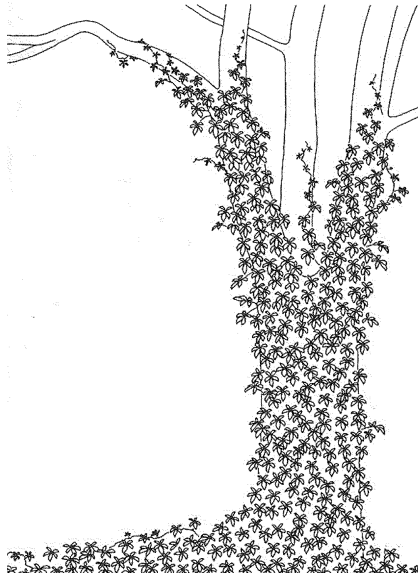
- prefers full sun to partial sun in moist, well-drained soils, but is tolerant of a wide range of urban stresses, including heat, drought, high light reflection, poor soils, thin soils, compacted soils, restricted root zones, soils of variable pH, and heavy pruning
- virtually no disease or pest problems of significance
- moderate availability, usually as a young vine staked or trellised in containers

Foliage

- emerging bronzed, changing to a medium then dark green, with very glossy upper surfaces, to 6" wide
- each leaf has 3 prominent lobes, or sometimes is so deeply sinuate that it forms 3 leaflets at the top of the petiole
- coarsely serrated (almost dentate), having acuminate apices on the lobes, with a 4" long petiole, and with the leaf blades parallel to the structure upon which the vine is climbing
- brilliant glossy yellow, orange, scarlet, crimson, and/or wine autumn color begins in Sept. and abscises in Oct. sometimes with the petioles remaining attached for a week or 2 to the stems after the leaflets have abscised

Flowers

- small
- greenish
- hidden by the foliage
- June-July



Fruits

- clusters of small bluish-black grape fruits
- readily eaten by the birds
- usually hidden by the foliage
- maturing in Sept.-Oct.

Twigs

- heavily lenticled and bumpy, with holdfasts for stone, brick, wood, or bark attachment

Trunk

- not applicable

USAGE

Function

- structural cover

Texture

- medium texture in foliage and when bare
- thick density

Assets

- rapid growth
- dense foliage
- excellent autumn color

Liabilities

- may cover windows, doors, and wire mesh screens

Habitat

- Zone 3
- Native to Central China

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- large and vigorous vines with a solid anchoring system, and especially utilized for the cover of stone or brick buildings in environmental conditions ranging from full sun to full shade (*Hedera helix*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

- climbing vines with excellent autumn color (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

- several selected based on foliage size, shape, and autumn color

- Parthenocissus quinquefolia* - Virginia Creeper (image below) - functionally identical to Boston Ivy, but with duller, lighter green summer foliage that is 5-leaflet in form, with palmate leaflet attachment to the petiole via petiolules

