

black swallow-wort *Vincetoxicum nigrum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Asclepiadaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS: common, nonnative

FEATURES

Black swallow-wort grows up to six and one-half feet in length. The leaves are paired and arranged opposite each other on the stem. Seedpods grow up to three and one-fourth inches in length. Flowers are positioned in the leaf axils and are dark purple to black in color.

BEHAVIORS

Black swallow-wort flowers June through September. It may be found in the northern two-thirds of Illinois. This species is native to Europe. It is a vining milkweed that grows in a variety of habitats.

Aquatic Habitats: none

Woodland Habitats: coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats: none

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