

# *Mucuna pruriens*

## VELVETBEAN

### *Fabaceae*

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** -

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

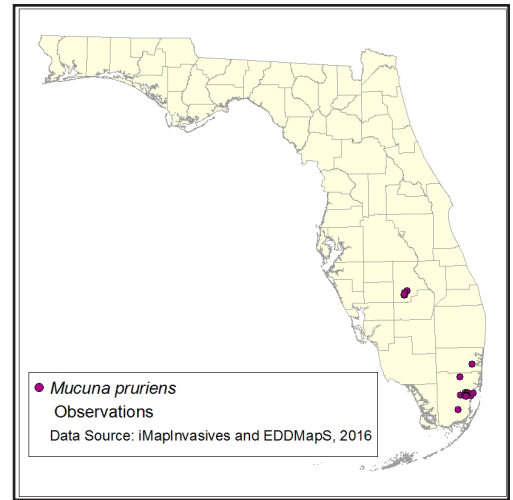
**IFAS Assessment**

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.

**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.

**Florida Introduction Date:** Specimen vouchered in 1896

**Control Methods:**

Manual: hand pull vines and seedlings.

Chemical: Foliar (glyphosate).

**Useful Resources:**

Tropical Forages Fact Sheet. [http://www.tropicalforages.info/key/forages/media/Htmi/Mucuna\\_pruriens.htm](http://www.tropicalforages.info/key/forages/media/Htmi/Mucuna_pruriens.htm). Accessed on December 13, 2013.

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