**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.

**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 (glysophate). .


**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.