Passiflora incarnata
Purple Passionflower, Maypop

Found naturally* along roadsides, pastures, and open woods, the exotic flowers and edible fruit of Purple Passionflower make this unique vine a striking ornamental plant for the garden. The common name, Maypop, refers to the fruit, which makes a loud popping sound when stomped on.

**Vine**
- Height: 6–8 feet
- Spread: 3–6 feet
- Bloom color: Lavender, white (rarely)

**Characteristics**
- Rapid-growing, tendril-climbing, deciduous vine
- Three-lobed, medium to dark green leaves
- Usually fragrant, 3-inch flowers crowned with wavy filaments and a showy center column of stamens and stigmas; bloom May to October
- Pulpy, edible, egg-shaped fruits (maypops), ripen to yellow-green for harvest mid-summer into fall
- Spreads rapidly by root suckers

**Attributes**
- Tolerates clay soil and drought; no serious pests or diseases
- Moderate deer resistance
- Ethnobotanic uses; fruit eaten fresh or cooked
- Attracts butterflies and bees to its flowers; wild turkeys eat young tendrils; larval host for Gulf and Variegated Fritillary butterflies

**Growing and Maintenance Tips**
- Soil requirements: Average, well-drained
- Light requirements: Sun
- Water requirements: Moist
- Remove suckers on regular basis to control spread
- Cover roots lightly with mulch
- Use on arbors, fences, posts, and walls or on slopes for erosion control
- Hardiness: USDA Zones 5–9

**Excellent Replacement for**
- Ampelopsis brevipedunculata - Porcelain Berry
- Celastrus orbiculatus - Chinese/Oriental Bittersweet
- Lonicera japonica - Japanese Honeysuckle

*It is native in DC; adventive (non-native, escaped from cultivation) in DE's Coastal Plain; and absent in PA. In VA, it is common in the Coastal Plain and outer southern Piedmont, infrequent elsewhere in the Piedmont, and rare in the mountains. It is native to NoVA, except for Fairfax County.

For more information, visit the website of Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria.

Images by Alyssa Ford Morel, Elaine Mills, and Jane Longan, private gardens. Arlington, VA