**Bignonia capreolata**  
**Cross-vine**

This semi-evergreen vine can cling to stone, brick, and wood without support. Found in forests and along roadsides mainly in the South,* its showy, two-tone flowers are an early nectar source for butterflies and hummers. Cross-vine refers to the cross-shaped pattern of the cut stem.

### Vine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height: 30–45 feet</th>
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<td>Spread: 6–9 feet</td>
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### Bloom Color:
Orange outside with a yellow throat; rarely yellow or deep orange-red outside

### Characteristics

- Climbing, woody, semi-evergreen vine
- Climbs by means of clawed tendrils
- Glossy, dark green leaves in pairs remain only on upper portion of plant
- Long, tubular, fragrant flowers hang in clusters of two to five from May to June
- Flat, green fruit capsules mature to brown August to October
- Reddish-purple foliage in fall persists into winter
- Spreads rapidly by root suckers; can be invasive

### Attributes

- Tolerates shade, drought, brief flooding; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and mammals
- Ethnobotanic uses

### Growing and Maintenance Tips

- **Soil Requirements:** Average, well-drained
- **Light Requirements:** Sun, Partial Shade
- **Water Requirements:** Dry, Moist, Wet
- **Flowers best in sun; after bloom, prune if needed**
- **Cut root suckers to control aggressive growth**
- **Use as climber on arbors & fences or as a ground cover [It will climb any structure it encounters.]**
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zones 5–9

### Excellent Replacement for

| **Akebia quinata** - Chocolate Vine |
| **Celastrus orbiculatus** - Oriental Bittersweet |
| **Clematis terniflora** - Sweet Autumn Clematis |
| **Jasminum dichotomum** - Jasmine |
| **Lonicera japonica** - Japanese Honeysuckle |

*In VA, it is frequent to common in the southern and central Coastal Plain, southern Piedmont, and portions of the far southwestern mountains and rare elsewhere. It is native to NoVA except for Prince William County. It may be indigenous to some areas in Maryland.

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*developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria*

Images by Christa Watters, Simpson Gardens and by Elaine Mills (bottom left) & Mary Free (bottom right), Glencarlyn Garden