

Maypop Passion Flower, *Passiflora incarnata* L.¹

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Classification

Common Name: Maypop Passion Flower

Scientific Name: *Passiflora incarnata* L.

Family: Passifloraceae, Passion Flower Family

Seedling

The stem is smooth (Figure 1). The first leaves while sometimes not as lobed as the later leaves have two characteristic glands at the base of the blade on the petiole.



Figure 1. Seedling, Maypop Passion Flower, *Passiflora incarnata* L.

Mature Plant

Maypop Passion Flower is a perennial (Figure 1). The stems are smooth or have small hairs. The growth pattern is erect, creeping or climbing. The leaf blades are palmately 3-lobed (rarely 5-lobed) and 6-15 cm long. The leaves have leaf-like stipules and conspicuous glands on the petioles. The flowers are axillary and solitary. The flower stalks are 5-10 cm long and terminate with a whorl of three-toothed modified leaves, 3-6 mm long. The five sepals are usually green, or sometimes light lavender to white. The sepals are 2.5-3.5 cm long. The five petals are bluish white and 3 to 4 cm long. The fruit is a green, fleshy, egg-shaped berry, turning yellowish green. The seeds are dark brown and 4-6 mm long.



Figure 2. Mature plant, Maypop Passion Flower, *Passiflora incarnata* L.

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History

Passiflora is derived from Latin and means passion and flower. The Latin species name *incarnata* means flesh colored and alludes to part of the flower.

Habitat

This weed is found throughout Florida on dry soils, especially along roadsides and in citrus groves and old fields. Its native range extends westward to Texas, eastward to Virginia and northward to Missouri. It was introduced further north from its previous southern range. It is also found in Bermuda.

Biology

Reproduction is by seeds and root shoots. Cultivation may break apart and move root shoots to new areas. The edible fruit is called a Maypop.