

Chocolate Vine



Akebia quinata

- **Use:** Vigorously spreading and climbing vine displays attractive, bluish-green foliage. Dangling stalks of fragrant, deep purple flowers add to the show. Fast cover for arbors. Semi-evergreen. Flowers are often hidden by the foliage, but are quite interesting on close inspection and have a pleasant fragrance. Flowers give way to sausage-shaped, violet fruit pods (to 4" long) which split open in fall to reveal small black seeds imbedded in a whitish pulp. The whitish pulp is edible.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun preferred or at least 6 hours of afternoon sun.. During the winter they prefer well-drained soils. Water regularly, when top 3 in. of soil is dry.
- **Growth:** Twining, woody vine that rapidly grows to 20-40'
- **Hardiness:** 5-9 Vine
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; . It produces compound palmate leaves, each with 5 elliptic to oblong-obovate leaflets (1-3" long) which are dark green above and glaucous below. Small chocolate-purple flowers bloom in drooping axillary racemes in spring.
- **Flower:** Flowers are often hidden by the foliage, but are quite interesting on close inspection and have a pleasant fragrance. Flowers give way to sausage-shaped, violet fruit pods (to 4" long) which split open in fall to reveal small black seeds imbedded in a whitish pulp. The whitish pulp is edible. Flowers are monoecious, with both staminate (male) and pistillate (female) flowers appearing in the same raceme.