

**IDENTIFICATION:** Price's Potato-bean (*Apios priceana*) is a member of the pea family (Fabaceae). It is a perennial, climbing yellow-green vine growing from a stout, edible, potato-like tuber. Vines may be up to 15 feet long with pale pink or greenish-yellow pea or bean type flowers that bloom from mid-June through August. The fruit is a pod about 4 - 6 inches long that is present from late August through September. Leaves are alternate in arrangement, pinnately compound with five to seven leaflets.



The plant grows in forest openings in mixed hardwood stands where ravine slopes grade into creek or stream bottoms. It is often associated with cane, chinquapin oak, basswood, and slippery elm.

It was listed as a [threatened species](#) on January 5, 1990. At the time of listing, it was known to exist at three sites in Alabama and additional sites in Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported in 2015 there were 16 known populations in Alabama. The [recovery plan](#) states it will be considered for delisting when 25 geographically distinct, self-sustaining populations are adequately protected and they have been maintained for 10 years. Threats to the species include clearcutting, excessive shading by canopy trees, right-of-way maintenance, and competition with non-native invasive plants. No critical habitat was designated at the time of listing because of the risk of increased vandalism and destruction of habitat if descriptions and maps were published.



**FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS:** Since it grows in second growth timber, it appears to withstand some harvesting. Avoid site preparation using shears and rakes. Some herbicides may damage or kill it. Carefully planned herbicide applications to control invasive, non-native plant species may be beneficial.

**DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY:** This plant is known or believed to occur in Autauga, Cullman, Dallas, Jackson, Lawrence, Lowndes, Madison, Marshall, Morgan and Winston counties.

Photo Credit: Alan Cressler



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