



BRANDYWINE
CONSERVANCY

Preserving Our
Land & Water

IDENTIFY

JAPANESE HOP FLOWERS | Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



JAPANESE HOP

(*Humulus japonica*)

Growing rapidly in the summer, Japanese hop can cover large areas of open ground or understory shrubs and small trees in dense mats. The plant can wrap around existing shrubs and cause them to break or bend. It will quickly displace native vegetation, prevent the emergence of new plants, and kill newly planted trees installed for streamside habitat restoration.

CHARACTERISTICS

Japanese hop is an annual climbing or trailing vine which can grow up to 35 feet in one growing season. Five-lobed leaves with toothed edges grow opposite of one another along the vine. Leaves possess a rough surface and stems are covered in prickles. Appearing in mid-summer, female flowers hang downwards in cones, while males are upright and stem-like. Japanese hop is not the type of hops used in beer making.

WHERE FROM

Originally native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, Japanese hop was originally imported to North America in the late 1800s for medicinal use and as an ornamental vine. It is still sold for these purposes today.



JAPANESE HOP FOLIAGE
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WHERE FOUND

Japanese hop is now found scattered throughout New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and Midwestern states, and as far south as Alabama. It is commonly found along forest edges and stream

banks, and can be found in disturbed habitats like scoured riverbanks, roadsides or paths. It can grow in loamy soil, as well as predominantly sandy or clay-like areas.



JAPANESE HOP FRUITS
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JAPANESE HOP INVASION
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CONTROL

CHEMICAL METHOD

A pre-emergent application in March has proven to be the most effective control. A 2% glyphosate solution (e.g., *Roundup* or *Rodeo*) will also provide

control but care should be taken during the application process to avoid non-target plant kill since the herbicide is non-selective.

MANUAL METHOD

Prior to August, the plants may be pulled manually before they flower and set seed. **Be sure to wear thick gloves to prevent the plant's hooked hairs from coming in contact with the skin, which can cause blistering.**

Also be sure to remove as much of the root as possible, as Japanese hop may resprout.

REMEMBER

When removing, **be careful** not to remove or destroy desirable species.

If you choose to remove Japanese hop by hand or by a method of cutting, carefully bag the plants. Failure to do so will result in seed dispersion and further plant growth.

(Read and follow all herbicide labels carefully before use.)

SOURCES
U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Plant Conservation Alliance (www.nps.gov/plants/)
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library (www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)
The Nature Conservancy (www.tnc.org)
Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation of Natural Resources (www.dcnr.state.pa.us)