

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Japanese Angelica Tree (*Aralia elata*)



Family name: Aralia family (Araliaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

General: Deciduous shrub or tree reaching 40 feet in height. Its form is irregular, spreading, multi- or single-stemmed. Bark is covered in sharp prickles.

Leaves: Alternate, 2 or 3 times pinnately compound. Leaflets can be toothed or nearly toothless with downy hairs below. 2 to 4 feet long. Leaves turn yellow to reddish purple in fall.

Flowers: Whitish to cream colored, large clusters. The flowers appear in late July through August.

Fruit: Small purple to black berries appear in August through September. Ripening from September to October.

Look-alikes: Devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*) resembles Japanese angelica tree, but this native is not found in New Jersey.

Habitat: Forest, forest edge, hedgerow, stream-side, thickets, shrub and open habitats.

Japanese angelica tree is adaptable, but prefers sun to partial shade locations and moist, well-drained soil.

Threats to native habitats: Japanese angelica tree is fast growing and sends up new growth along its roots. It can easily form large thickets that displace native plants and prevent successional growth of native trees and shrubs.

NJ Status: Japanese angelica tree is common and spreading rapidly. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly emerging occurrences should be eradicated.

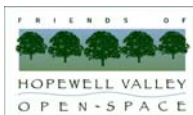
Commercial availability: Japanese angelica is available from the nursery trade. It may be sold in variegated forms (leaves green with white edges).



Sources: <http://nymf.bbg.org/species/198>

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/japanese-angelica-tree.pdf

Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. *Plants of Pennsylvania*. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 854.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohv.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

