

## CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

### *Invasive Plant Fact Sheet*

#### Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*)



**Family name:** Figwort family (Scrophulariaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**General:** Deciduous shrub of about 3 to 12 feet tall. Mature butterfly bush has a wide form with arcing branches.

**Leaves:** Opposite, slightly toothed. Small, often long, narrow, oval with tapered, pointed tips. Dense hairs underneath.

**Flowers:** Slender, often slightly drooping clusters with individual flowers densely growing along the center stem, appearing July through September. Color is variable, including white, pink, red, purple, orange, or yellow.

**Fruit:** An elliptical capsule containing numerous seeds. Ripening in September through October.

**Look-alikes:** There are many cultivars and species of butterfly bush. None should be planted in the landscape.

**Habitat:** Meadow, roadside, yard edge. Prefers drier soils.

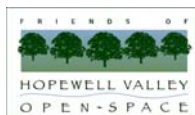
**Threats to native habitats:** Butterfly bush can form large thickets that displace native plants and prevent successional growth of native trees and shrubs.

**NJ Status:** Butterfly bush is uncommon, but has been observed along roadsides, compost facilities, and steep banks along the Delaware River. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**Commercial Availability:** Butterfly bush is widely planted to attract butterflies. This plant has been found to be invasive on the west coast of the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, and parts of Europe.



Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddleja>  
<http://www.hear.org/Pier/index.html>  
<http://www.invasive.org/weeds/asian/buddleja.pdf>  
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 827.



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.fohvos.org](http://www.fohvos.org) or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, [www.urwa.org](http://www.urwa.org).

