

## CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

### *Invasive Plant Fact Sheet*

#### Japanese Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)

Also called: Sweet autumn virginsbower, leatherleaf clematis



**Family name:** Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)

**Native range:** Japan

**General:** Climbing, semi-evergreen vine that can grow 20 to 40 feet in one year.

**Leaves:** Opposite, usually untoothed. Pinnately compound with 5 or occasionally 3 oval leaflets.

**Flowers:** White, fragrant, 4 petalled, abundant, appearing August to September.

**Fruit:** Seeds are borne showy clusters with long, feathery persistent styles, ripening in fall. Seeds are prolific and germinate readily. *Immature seeds shown.*

**Look-alikes:** Virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*) is a native vine, similar to the nonnative Japanese clematis, but its leaves are toothed.

**Habitat:** Forest edges, floodplains, streams and shores. Japanese clematis prefers sun to partial shade, but tolerates full shade.

**Threats to native habitats:** Japanese clematis can quickly overtop shrubs and trees, completely shading them from the sun. Its dense growth crowds out native plants. In the absence of vegetation or other structures to climb, Japanese clematis will create will create dense mats that suppress the growth of other plant life.



**NJ Status:** Japanese clematis is currently uncommon but spreading rapidly. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**Commercial Availability:** Japanese clematis is planted in landscaping and gardens.



Sources: <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/trees/clte.html>

Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org/>  
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 420.  
<http://wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons>



**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).

