

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Japanese Hops (*Humulus japonica*)



Family name: Hemp family (Cannabaceae)

Native range: Asia

General: Climbing or trailing annual vine of 1.5 to 8 feet long. Stems have small, downwardly curving prickles.

Leaves: Opposite, toothed, rough, and divided into 5 to 9 distinct V-shaped sinuses. Younger leaves can have 3 to 5 lobes. About 2 to 4.75 inches long. Leaves are borne on long petioles (stems). Triangular bracts occur at the base of the leaf petioles.

Flowers: Male and female flowers grow on separate plants appearing July through early October. The male flowers are 6 to 10 inches in length, while the female flowers are cone-shaped spikes, 0.25 to 0.4 inches in size. Individual flowers are small and greenish.

Fruit: Hanging clusters of oval-shaped achenes. Ripening in July through September.

Look-alikes: Common hops (*Humulus lupulus* var. *lupulus*) is a non-native, European plant. Its leaves are wider than Japanese hops and have U-shaped sinuses.

Habitat: Abandoned fields, forest edge, river or stream banks, roadsides. Japanese hops is often found in open disturbed areas, especially in moist soil.



Threats to native habitats: Japanese hops is a fast growing vine that can spread as a groundcover or climb shrubs and trees. Its dense growth crowds out native plants.

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

Commercial Availability: Not found.

WARNING: *This plant can cause rashes or blistering. Handle with gloves.*

Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org/>
http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/japanese-hop.pdf
<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specield=55>

Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. *Plants of Pennsylvania*. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 660.



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 or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

