

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Japanese Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)



Family name: Pea or bean family (*Fabaceae*)

Native range: Asia

General: Vigorous, climbing, perennial vine reaching up to 65 feet. Stems twine clockwise. Bark is smoothish and grey.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound leaves with 13 to 19 untoothed, oval leaflets. Leaves are approximately one foot long.

Flowers: Showy, hanging clusters of fragrant whitish to violet blooms appearing in spring from April through May. Individual flowers are pealike.

Fruit: Fuzzy brown pea-like pods reaching 4 to 6 inches. Ripening in late August through September.

Look-alikes: American wisteria is native to the

Southeast and flowers in *June through August*. It's seed pod is *hairless*. Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) is also a highly invasive, non-native vine. It has fewer leaflets than Japanese wisteria and its stems twine clockwise.

Habitat: Forest, forest edge, old home sites, yard, garden.

Threats to native habitats: The vine can quickly overtop native vegetation and grow across the ground. Nonnative wisterias are extremely aggressive and can choke and smother native trees and shrubs. Even mature trees can be killed by this vine.

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



Commercial Availability: Japanese wisteria is widely planted in landscaping and gardens.

Sources: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>
Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture
Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org>
<http://www.invasive.org>
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/wist1.htm>
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University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA.



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.

