

Japanese wisteria

Wisteria floribunda

Description

Brought to the U.S. from Asia in 1800s as an ornamental.

Habit

Deciduous, woody twining vine that climbs up tree trunks to heights of 60 feet or more. It twines upwards in a clockwise direction. Long-lived perennial, surviving 50 years or more.

Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound and about 1 foot in length. Slightly wavy margins.

Stems

Woody vine reaching a diameter of over 15 inches. Infrequent alternate branching. Twigs densely short hairy. Bark is white in color.

Flowers

Dangling and showy, stalked clusters (racemes) appearing when leaves emerge, 4-20 inches long and 3-3.5 inches wide. Flowers bloom gradually





from base. Pealike flowers, corolla lavender to violet and fragrant.

Fruits and Seeds

Flattened legume pod, irregularly oblong to oblanceolate, 2.5 to 6 inches long and 0.8-1.2 inches wide. Velvety hairy, greenish brown to golden, splitting on two sides to release 1-8 flat round brown seeds. Seeds are 0.5-1 inch in diameter.

Habitat

Native to Asia. Found primarily along forest edges, roadsides, ditches and rights-of-way.

Reproduction

Vegetative reproduction is the primary means of growth and spread. Seeds may be produced when conditions are favorable.

Similar

American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) which is native to the southeastern U.S. to southern Virginia. Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) and Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

For small infestations, hand pull, making sure to remove entire tap root. For Vines, cut the stem, pull out the rooted portion and leave the vine in the tree. Cut stem and apply a concentrated systemic herbicide to vines like triclopyr or glyphosate. For large infestations, a foliar herbicide may be used.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States database and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network



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