

Japanese chaff-flower

Achyranthes japonica

Description

First discovered in the United States in eastern Kentucky in the early 1980s.

Habit

Herbaceous perennial that can form dense colonies and grow up to 6.5 feet tall.

Leaves

Simple, opposite, ovate-elliptic shaped. Leaf margins are entire and slightly wavy and entire plant is slightly pubescent.

Stems

Slightly pubescent or glabrous, erect and growing up to 6.5 feet in height.

Flowers

Occur on tight clusters of erect spikes, blooming in late summer. Tiny flowers lack petals and they form at right angles from the spike.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits lay flat against elongated spikes that have





a pair of stiff bracts that aid in attachment to cloths, shoes and animal fur. Seed maturation occurs in early fall.

Habitat

Native to eastern Asia. Found in forests, riparian areas, open grasslands, and disturbed areas such as ditches and field edges.

Reproduction

By seed or vegetative by vigorous rhizomes.

Similar

American lop seed (*Phryma leptostachya*), a common perennial forb of Wisconsin, especially when in fruit. American lop-seed can be best distinguished from Japanese chaff flower by its toothed leaves that come to an elongated point at the tip.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull small infestations or newly germinated plants. Continuous monitoring is required due to vigorous root system. Remove plants before seed-set. Herbicide treatments may need to be conducted every 2 weeks with the use of glyphosate or triclopyr.

Credits

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