

Chinese wisteria

Wisteria sinensis

Description

Brought to the U.S. from China in 1816 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 and compound, 6-10 inches long with 9-11 leaflets; leaflets are ovoid-elliptic to ovoid-lanceolate and have slightly wavy margins.

Stems

Stout, gray-brown and covered with fine white hairs. Older plants can grow to 15 inches or more in diameter.

Flowers

Dangling and showy, stalked clusters (racemes) appearing when leaves emerge, 4-20 inches long





and 3-3.5 inches wide. Flowers bloom all at once.

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 China. 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

Manual, mechanical and chemical control methods all are effective in removing and killing wisteria. Systemic herbicides like triclopyr and glyphosate can kill the plant within a week.

Credits

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