

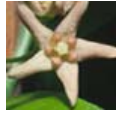


Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Catalog of Species Search Results

Humulus japonicus

(Japanese hops)



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

COMMON NAME

Japanese hops

FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

Humulus japonicus Sieb. & Zucc

FAMILY NAME COMMON

Hemp family

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Cannabaceae

IMAGES



Leaves and
Inflorescences



Fruits Close-up



Habitat



Habitat



Climbing Habit

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: *Humulus scandens* auct. non (Lour.) Merr.

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

Humulus japonicus is a monoecious, annual vine that can grow between 0.5-2.5 m (1.5-8 ft.) in length. The stems and leaves of this plant have a very rough texture. The leaves are cordate in outline and palmately lobed. The leaves have 5 to 9 lobes separated by V-shaped sinuses. The margins of the lobes are serrulate and they have an acuminate apex. The leaves measure 5-12 cm (2-4.75 in.) in length, and the petiole is often longer than the leaf blade itself. The uppermost leaves are often 3-5 lobed.

The staminate inflorescences are erect and measure 15-25 cm (6-10 in.) in length, while the pistillate inflorescences are cone-shaped spikes, 7-10 mm (0.25-0.4 in.) in size and the margins of the bracteoles are densely ciliate. The pistillate spikes are dull green in color and become abruptly acuminate. The flowers bloom in early to mid-summer. The achenes are yellow-brown, ovoid-orbicular in shape, and 4-5 mm (0.2 in.) in length.

Page References Bailey 341, Fernald 556, Flora of North America 384, Gleason & Cronquist 73, Holmgren 70, Magee & Ahles 421. See reference section below for full citations.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Humulus lupulus L. (Common hops) [Picture of *H. lupulus*](#)

| Character | <i>Humulus japonicus</i> | <i>Humulus lupulus</i> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Life cycle | Annual | Perennial |
| Leaf lobes | 5-9 lobes | 3-7 lobed, sometimes unlobed |
| Apex of leaf lobes | Acuminate | Rounded |
| Petiole | Longer than the blade | Shorter than the blade |
| Bracteoles of pistillate spike | Ciliate | Not ciliate |

REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

Humulus japonicus reproduces by seed. Its small seeds are dispersed by mechanical means, most notably by wind and by the moving water of rivers and streams.

DISTRIBUTION

Humulus japonicus is native to eastern Asia. In North America its range is from southern Quebec and Ontario to northern Georgia and west from North Dakota to Kansas. It is found in all of the states of New England.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

It is unclear when *Humulus japonicus* was first brought to North America, but it probably arrived here for intentional cultivation. In New England, the earliest records of its escape and naturalization come from eastern Massachusetts and southern Connecticut at the end of the nineteenth century. There are also records from several locations in Vermont (Brattleboro, Burlington, Bellows Falls) from the early part of the twentieth century. Most of these early records note that *Humulus japonicus* had escaped to "waste places." Robinson (1908) described *Humulus japonicus* as having "occasionally escaped from frequent cultivation." By 1950, Fernald characterized it as being found in waste places, roadsides and along fencerows from New England to Michigan and south from Virginia and Missouri.

HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Abandoned Field
Edge
Open Disturbed Area
River or Stream
Roadside
Vacant Lot
Yard or Garden

Humulus japonicus is often found in disturbed areas, along roadsides and utility right-of-ways, and in open fields, particularly when the soil is moist. It is also commonly found along river or stream banks and in floodplain areas, where it can form dense, almost continuous stands.

THREATS

When forming dense stands, *Humulus japonicus* can out compete native vegetation.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: A specific photograph or mounted snippet of the leaves with inflorescences.

Best time for documentation: Summer, fall.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Integrated Taxonomic Information System
Taxonomic information about the species

The PLANTS Database

General information and map

[Flora of North America](#)

Extensive description and distribution map

[Delaware Wildflowers](#)

A close-up image of inflorescence

REFERENCES

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DATA RETRIEVAL

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MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

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