

# NJ INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

## *Target Species Fact Sheets Plants Only*



Pictures from top left, clockwise:  
*Viburnum sieboldii*, *Miscanthus sinensis*,  
*Carex macrocephala*,  
*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, *Iris pseudacorus*



NJ Invasive Species  
**Strike Team**

The New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team is a statewide, 501(c)3 organization with a mission to “prevent the spread of emerging invasive species across the state of NJ. This initiative is a partnership of federal, state, county and municipal agencies, conservation groups and private citizens. For more information, visit [www.njisst.org](http://www.njisst.org).

## 2012 Target Species Fact Sheets

### Table of Contents- Alphabetical by scientific name

Page Number	Scientific Name	Species Code	Common Name	Search Grouping	Current Abundance/ Distribution Code	Threat Code	ED/RR Action Code
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1	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	ACGI	Amur maple	Forest	Stage 0	Moderate	1
2	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	ACPA	Japanese maple	Forest	Stage 2	Moderate	1
3	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	ACPS	sycamore maple	Forest	Stage 1	High	1
4	<i>Actinidia arguta</i>	ACAR	hardy kiwi	Vine	Stage 0	Mild	1
5	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	AKQU	chocolate vine	Vine	Stage 1	High	1
6	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	ALJU	mimosa	Open Upland	Stage 2	Moderate	1
7	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	ALGL	European alder	Open Wetland	Stage 0	High	1
8	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	AMFR	desert false indigo	Open Wetland	Stage 2	High	1
9	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	AMBR	porcelainberry	Vine	Stage 3	High	2
10	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	ANSY	wild chervil	Open Wetland	Stage 3	Moderate	1
11	<i>Aralia elata</i>	AREL	Japanese angelica tree	Open Upland	Stage 3	High	2
12	<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i>	ARST	oldwoman	Open Upland	Stage 0	Moderate	1
13	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	BEVU	common barberry	Forest	Stage 1	Moderate	1
14	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	BUDA	orange eye butterflybush	Open Upland	Stage 1	Moderate	1
15 & 16	<i>Carex kobomugi</i>	CAKO	Japanese shore sedge	Open Upland	Stage 2	High	1
15 & 16	<i>Carex macrocephala</i>	CAMA	big-headed sedge	Open Upland	Stage 1	High	1
17 & 18	<i>Clematis flammula</i>	CLFL	fragrant clematis	Vine	Stage 0	High	1
17 & 18	<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	CLTE	Japanese clematis	Vine	Stage 3	High	2
19	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	COMA	poison hemlock	Open Wetland	Stage 1	Moderate	1
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21	<i>Cynanchum louiseae</i>	CYLO	black swallowwort	Vine	Stage 1	High	1
22	<i>Didymosphenia geminata</i>	DIGE	rock snot	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
23	<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>	DIOP	Chinese yam	Vine	Stage 0	Moderate	1
24	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	DILA	cutleaf teasel	Open Wetland	Stage 1	Moderate	1
25	<i>Egeria densa</i>	EGDE	Brazilian water-weed	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
26	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	EICR	water hyacinth	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
27	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	ELAN	Russian olive	Open Upland	Stage 0	High	1
28	<i>Eleutherococcus sieboldianus</i>	ELSI	fiveleaf aralia	Forest	Stage 1	High	1
29	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	ERCU	weeping lovegrass	Open Upland	Stage 2	High	1
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31	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	EUFO	winter creeper	Vine	Stage 2	High	1
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34	<i>Hedera helix</i>	HEHE	English ivy	Vine	Stage 2	Moderate	1
35	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	HEMA	giant hogweed	Open Upland	Stage 0	Moderate	1
36	<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	HUJA	Japanese hop	Vine	Stage 3	High	2
37	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	HYVE	hydrilla	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
38	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	HYMO	common frogbit	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
39	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	IRPS	paleyellow iris	Open Wetland	Stage 3	High	2

40	<i>Kalopanax septemlobus</i>	KASE	castor-aralia	Open Upland	Stage 0	Moderate	1
41	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	LECU	Chinese bushclover	Open Upland	Stage 3	High	2
42	<i>Lonicera caprifolium</i>	LOCA	Italian honeysuckle	Open Upland	Stage 0	Moderate	1
43	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	LOFR	fragrant honeysuckle	Forest	Stage 0	Moderate	1
44	<i>Malus toringo</i>	MATO	Japanese crabapple	Forest	Stage 2	High	1
45	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	MAQU	European watercress	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
46	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	MISI	Chinese silvergrass	Open Upland	Stage 2	High	1
47	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	MYAQ	parrot feather	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
48	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	NYPE	yellow floating heart	Open Water	Stage 0	High	1
49	<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>	OPHI	wavy-leaf basket grass	Forest	Stage 0	High	1
50	<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	PATR	Boston ivy	Vine	Stage 1	High	1
51	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	PEFR	beefsteakplant	Open Wetland	Stage 1	Mild	1
52	<i>Phalaris canariensis</i> L.	PHCA	annual canarygrass	Open Wetland	Stage 2	High	1
53	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	PHAM	amur cork-tree	Forest	Stage 0	Moderate	1
54	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	PHVI	Oriental photinia	Forest	Stage 2	High	1
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61	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	PYCA	callery pear	Open Upland	Stage 3	High	1
62 & 63	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	RHCA	common buckthorn	Forest	Stage 2	High	1
62 & 63	<i>Rhamnus davurica</i>	RHDA	Dahurian buckthorn	Forest	Stage 0	High	1
64	<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	RHSC	jetbead	Forest	Stage 2	High	1
65	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	RIRU	garden red current	Forest	Stage 1	Moderate	1
66	<i>Robinia hispida</i>	ROHI	bristly locust	Open Upland	Stage 0	Moderate	1
67	<i>Rosa canina</i>	ROCA	dog rose	Open Upland	Stage 1	Moderate	1
68	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	RORU	rugosa rose	Open Upland	Stage 1	High	1
69	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	RUDI	Himalayan blackberry	Open Upland	Stage 0	Moderate	1
70	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	RULA	cutleaf blackberry	Open Upland	Stage 1	Moderate	1
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72	<i>Trapa natans</i>	TRNA	water chestnut	Open Water	Stage 3	High	1
73 & 74	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	ULPA	Chinese elm	Forest	Stage 0	High	1
73 & 74	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	ULPR	English elm	Forest	Stage 0	High	1
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76	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	VILA	wayfaring tree	Forest	Stage 0	High	1
77	<i>Viburnum plicatum</i>	VIPL	doublefile viburnum	Forest	Stage 0	High	1
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79	<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	VISI	Siebold's viburnum	Forest	Stage 2	High	1
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## Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*)

**Also called:** Siberian maple

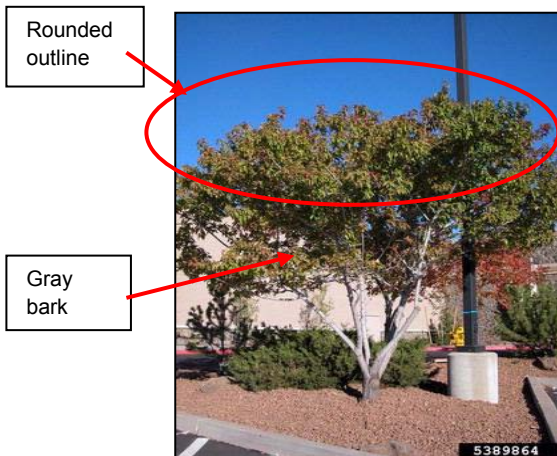
**Family name:** Maple (Aceraceae)

**Native range:** China and Japan

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0- Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

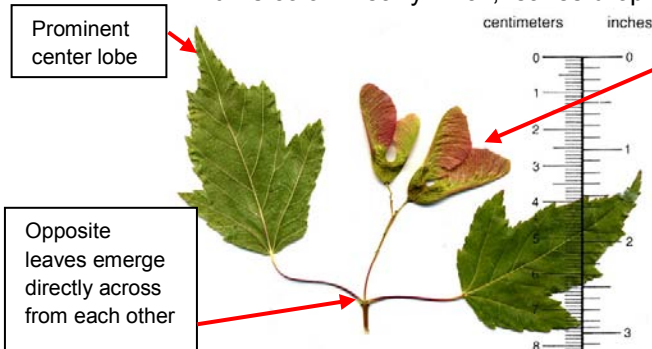
### General description:

- Small tree, 15'-20'
- Deciduous
- Broad, rounded outline
- Typically multi-stemmed
- Bark is grayish brown on trunk and mature branches
- Young bark is gray, smooth and has darker striations (stripes)



### Leaves:

- Opposite, 1.5"- 3" long
- Three-lobes on each leaf-- middle lobe is prominent
- Medium to dark green in color- smooth
- Early to leaf out in spring
- Autumn color is typically showy red (can also be yellow)
- Turns color in early in fall, leaves drop quickly



### Flowers:

- Small, pale yellow clusters
- Bloom in early spring
- Fragrant



### Fruit:

- Samaras (winged seeds), 0.75"- 1" long
- Wings nearly parallel to each other
- Reddish, especially in June and July
- Samaras persist in winter

### Habitat:

- Forest, meadow, landscaping
- Performs best in colder climates

**Commercial availability:** Yes

### Look-alikes:

**NOTE:** All maples have samaras of various size, color and wing shape. For additional lookalikes see Fact Sheets for: Japanese maple (*A. palmatum*) and Sycamore maple (*A. pseudoplatanus*).

### Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)

- Native understory tree
- Opposite leaves
- Leaf shape is similar but center lobe is not as prominent
- Flowers are red
- Reddish samaras have

Red maple samara, flower and leaf.



**Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)**

**Also called:** Takao maple

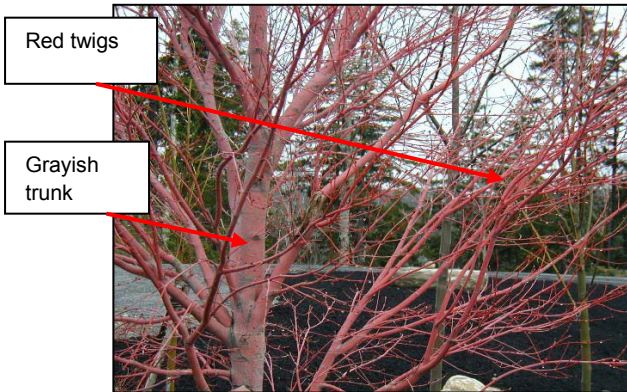
**Family name:** Maple (Aceraceae)

**Native range:** Japan, China, Korea

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

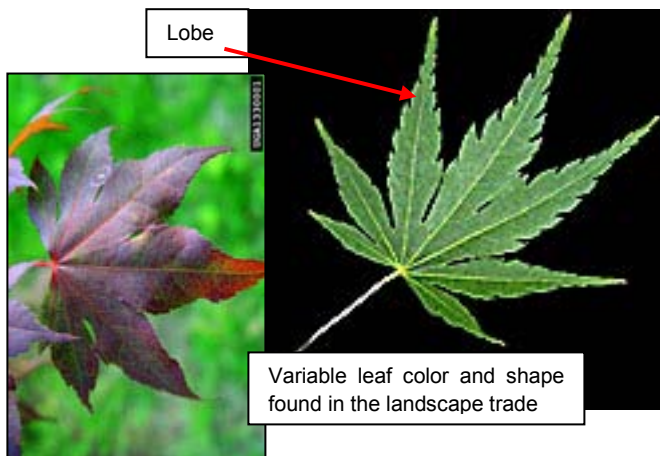
**General description:**

- Small deciduous tree, 10'-25' tall
- Several landscape varieties
- Multiple trunks joining close to the ground
- Twigs have green or red tinge and appear polished
- Mature bark is gray and smooth



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, 2"-3" across
- 5-9 sharply pointed lobes—each lobe is toothed
- Color ranges from green to purple in the summer; orange, yellow or red in the fall
- Color develops late
- Leaves are persistent
- Fuzzy fringe on buds



**Flowers:**

- Small, red or purple clusters
- Blooms in May-June



**Fruit:**

- Samaras (winged seeds). 0.5"-0.75" long
- Often have a reddish tinge, can also be green
- Wings at a 90 degree angle



Samaras are numerous and smaller than most other maples.

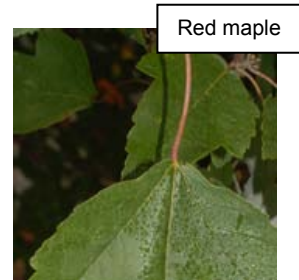
**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, landscape
- Well drained soil

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**NOTE:** All maples have samaras of various size, color and wing shape. For additional lookalikes see Fact Sheets for: **Sycamore maple** (*A. pseudoplatanus*) and **Amur maple** (*A. ginnala*).



**Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)**

- Native tree, to 90' tall
- Red twigs, red fall color
- Usually only 3 lobes on leaves, not as pointed

**Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)**

- Native tree
- Yellow flowers, large green samaras
- Leaves have a silvery underside



**Sycamore Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)**

**Also called:** Planetree maple

**Family name:** Maple (Aceraceae)

**Native range:** Europe and central Asia

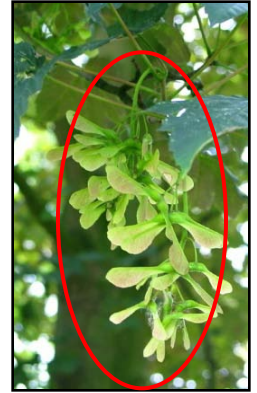
**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General:**

- Medium to large deciduous tree, 40'-60'
- Oval to rounded outline
- Branching typically dense
- Scaly gray bark, flaking to show orange

**Fruit:**

- Samaras (winged seeds) are yellow-green
- Develop in drooping clusters (similar to flower)
- Each samara is 1.25-2" long
- Reddish tinge
- Broad spreading wings



**Habitat:**

- Forest edge, fields, pasture, disturbed areas
- Salt tolerant
- Shade intolerant

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**NOTE:** All maples have samaras of various size, color and wing shape.

For additional lookalikes see Fact Sheets for: Japanese maple (*A. palmatum*) and Amur maple (*A. ginnala*).

**Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)**

- Widespread invasive tree
- 5 equal-shaped lobes, sharp tooting
- Excretes milky sap when leaf is broken off



Norway maple

**Leaves:**

- Opposite, 3"-6" long
- 5 lobes—3 main lobes and 2 smaller
- Coarsely toothed between lobes
- Palmately-veined (spread from center)
- Dark green, leathery above, whitish or reddish underside
- Veins may be fuzzy on the leaf underside
- Autumn foliage is yellowish or greenish brown

Orange coloring under gray bark



UGA5269069

Palmate veins are distinct on each lobe



UGA5269062

**Flowers:**

- Yellow-green drooping clusters, 2"-6" long
- Bloom in May
- 20-50 flowers on each stalk

**American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)**

- Native tree
- Alternate leaves as large as 12"
- Bark is gray flaking to white
- Seeds on a "spike ball"



Sycamore leaves are similar shape to Sycamore maple but extremely large. Bark has distinctive camouflage appearance.

### Hardy kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*)

**Family name:** Actinidia (Actinidiaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *mildly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous woody, twining vine
- Fast growing, 15'-20' annually
- Bark brownish with lenticels
- Raised leaf scar, looks like an eye
- 'Issai' cultivar typically planted—requires no pollinator to set abundant crops of fruit



Fall color

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, sharply serrate
- Dark green, shiny
- Oval, 3"-5" long
- Red petiole (leaf stem)
- Remains green late into autumn, occasionally turning yellow before leaf drop



**Flowers:**

- Whitish-green with purple anthers
- Fragrant
- 5 petals and 5 sepals
- About 1" wide
- Blooms June-July



**Fruit:**

- 1" long—grape-sized
- Fleshy, greenish
- Many-seeded
- Edible but not very flavorful
- Male and female plants needed for fruit set



**Habitat:**

- Forest, shrubland, meadow, and landscaping
- Sun to shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Kiwifruit (*Actinidia chinensis*)**

- Cultivated crop in southern states
- Larger fruit, 3" long



*Actinidia chinensis*



**Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)**

- Invasive, twining vine
- Leaves similar to hardy kiwi
- Fruit orange, inside thin, yellow, papery skins
- Fruits at leaf axils
- Mature bark is gray with lenticels



**American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)**

- Native, similar to above
- Fruiting at ends of branches

**Chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*)**

**Also called:** Five-leaf akebia

**Family name:** Lardizabala (Lardizabalaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Deciduous (evergreen in warmer climates)
- Twining woody-stemmed vine or groundcover
- Grows 20-40' in one year

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, smooth edges
- Palmately compound leaves
- 5 (occasionally fewer) oval stalked leaflets

**Flowers:**

- Purplish-brown flowers
- Emerge from leaf axils in clusters
- 1" across
- May smell of sweet chocolate
- Blooms in May

**Fruit:**

- Large, soft
- Sausage-shaped pods 2"-4" in length
- Pulp is whitish with many tiny black seeds
- Ripens in September

**Habitat:**

- Forest, forest edge, garden
- Prefers moist, fertile, well-drained soils
- Tolerates many soil types
- Full sun to partial shade

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)**

- Native to northeastern US
- Deciduous vine with tendrils
- Palmately compound leaves, 3-5 leaflets
- Toothed leaf edges
- Bluish berries
- Greenish white flowers



**Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*)**

**Also called:** silktree

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2

More information to come in 2012!



**European black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)**

**Family name:** Birch family (Betulaceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Colonial, deciduous tree 40'-65' tall
- Narrow pyramidal or columnar shape
- Often multi-stemmed
- Bark smooth and dark brown, but can show some shallow fissures with age
- Stalked buds, 0.25"-0.5" long



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, broadly round with rounded or notched tip
- 1"-3.5" long and 1"-3" wide
- Leathery
- Coarsely or irregularly doubly toothed
- Scalloped edges
- 5-8 principal veins
- Young leaves sticky and resin-coated
- Persist late into the fall
- No fall color, leaves fall green or brown



Notched leaf tip

**Flowers:**

- Male and female—inconspicuous flowers in clusters of 2-5
- Male—hanging, sticky catkins (0.6"-1.2" long)
- Female—cone-like, persistent
- Blooms in April before leaf out

**Fruit:**

- Individual seeds are hard, egg-shaped with short, narrow wings
- 0.5"-1" long and 0.5" wide
- Ripening October to November
- Water dispersed



Female catkin in seed, with lighter male catkin at right

Stalked buds, the native speckled and hazel alders also have stalked buds



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, meadow, roadside, landscaping
- Prefers wet or moist soil
- Can colonize poor soils

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

Native alders are typically small tree or shrubs to 20'. European black alder leaves are rarely tapered at the point, while native alders leaves are typically tapered.

**Speckled alder (*Alnus incana*)**

- Winter buds stalked
- Leaves with 8-14 principal veins
- Blooms before leaf out
- Male catkins 0.4"-0.6", bent downward
- Leaves doubly serrate, irregularly toothed



**Hazel alder (*A. serrulata*)**

- Winter buds stalked
- Leaves with 8-14 principal veins
- Blooms before leaf out
- Male catkins 0.4"-0.6", erect
- Leaves serrulate (fine, sharp, downward pointing teeth) and regularly toothed



Native alders have tapered leaf tips

**Green alder (*A. viridis*)**

- Winter buds sessile (lacking stem)
- Fruit broadly winged
- Blooms simultaneously with leaf out



Stalkless buds of green alder

**Desert false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)**

**Family name:** Pea (Fabaceae)

**Native range:** Western US

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub
- 6'-20' tall
- Open, spreading form
- Young twigs green, hairy



**Leaves:**

- Pinnately compound
- 13 to 25 leaflets
- Each leaflet 1"- 2" long,
- Resinous (sticky), dotted, hairy



**Fruit:**

- 0.25" long, curved pod
- Pod covered in resinous dots
- Two-seeded
- Pods persist into winter



**Habitat:**

- Riparian, moist soils, meadow, roadside, landscaping
- Sun to part sun

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Bristly locust (*Robinia hispida*)**

- Native shrub of southern mountains, 3'-6' tall
- 7-13 leaflets
- Flowers 0.75"-1"
- Blooms in racemes with 3-10 flowers



Bristly locust flowers are larger than false indigo

**Clammy locust (*Robinia viscosa*)**

- Native shrub or small tree, up to 16' tall
- 13-25 leaflets
- Frequently bearing spines along the branches
- Dry, open ground; open woods

**Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) & Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)**

- Black locust and honey locust are trees
- Frequently bearing spines along the branches
- Pods 2"-4" (black) or 4"-8" (honey) long
- Many seeded



**Flowers:**

- Small, whitish to bluish-purple and drying to brown
- Clustered in an erect, terminal raceme 3"-6" long
- Blooms May-June



False indigo flowers are small.

Black locust flowers and seed pods are larger than false indigo.



Honey locust seed pods are larger and contain more seeds than false indigo.

**Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)**

**Also called:** Amur peppervine

**Family name:** Grape (Vitaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 – Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate newly emerging occurrences only.

**General description:**

- Perennial, climbing, woody-stemmed vine
- Grows 10'-20' or more
- Climbs by tendrils, similar to native grapes
- Pith (center) of mature stems is white
- Bark does not peel and has lenticils

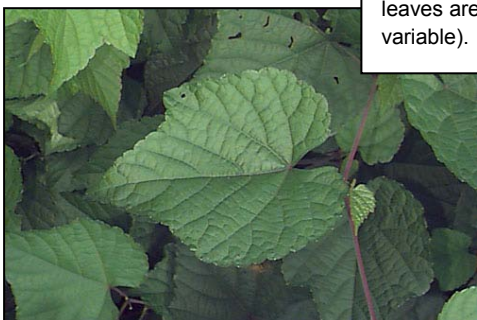


**Leaves:**

- Alternate
- 3-5 lobes on each leaf, heart-shaped base
- Extremely variable leaf shape/lobing
- Coarse teeth
- 2"-4" wide
- Young twigs, leaf stems and the undersides of the leaves are hairy



Variable leaf shape in porcelainberry. (Grape leaves are also very variable).



**Flowers:**

- Small, greenish-white
- Blooms in clusters, May-August



**Fruit:**

- Speckled, 0.25" spheres
- Ripening from September-October
- Fruits are borne in clusters
- Vary in color from yellow to lilac to green, and mature to a blue color



**Habitat:**

- Stream banks, floodplains, roads, fields, edges

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Grape species (*Vitis* sp.)**

- Native perennial vine
- Similar leaf shape
- Brown stem pith (center)
- Shredding or peeling bark
- Lacking lenticils
- Dark blue or purple berry

Shreddy bark of grape



Grape leaves can be lobed or unlobed; most often taper to a distinct point



Virginia Tech Weed ID Guide

**Moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*)**

- Native perennial vine- MILDLY TOXIC
- No tendrils on the stem
- 3-7 broad shallow lobes, untoothed
- White pendulous clusters (yellow anthers)
- Black fruits (grape-like)

Moonseed



**Wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)**

**Family name:** Carrot (Apiaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 – Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate newly emerging occurrences only.

**General description:**

- Herbaceous biennial
- Freely branching, tap-rooted
- Up to 1'- 4' tall
- Stems are branched, hollow, hairy

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, pinnately compound
- Fernlike, sheathed at base
- Pinnate segments 0.5"-2" long, combined, segments are up to 1' long
- Not aromatic

Single segment



**Flowers:**

- Small, white, in large umbels with 6-15 rays
- Individual flowers have 5 notched petals
- Each umbel has short (up to 0.25") lance-shaped to oval-shaped bractlets
- Blooms May-July



**Fruit:**

- Lance-shaped, 0.25" long
- Dark, smooth, shiny
- Two seeds are joined and beaked (antennae-like tips)
- Green, turning brown



**Habitat:**

- Meadows, fields, roadsides, especially in moist soils
- Sun to part sun

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

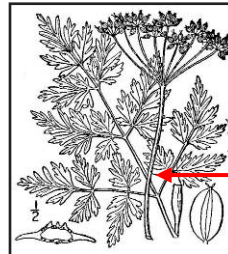
*Anthriscus sylvestris* has many look-alikes. Some are listed below. Fruits are helpful for ID.

**Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)**

- Non-native, common in recently abandoned fields
- Seed contained in a hairy, oval pod
- Carrot-like odor



**Hemlock-parsley (*Conioselinum chinense*)**



- Endangered in NJ
- Native to swamps, riverbanks
- Stem smooth, unspotted

**Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)**

- Invasive in moist woods, floodplains
- Seeds round, ribbed
- Stems spotted



**Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)**

- Native to wet, open areas
- Stems sometimes spotted
- Leaves lance-shaped and less finely cut leaves than wild chervil



**Sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza claytonii*)**

- Native, bruised roots have an anise-like odor
- Leaves divided into threes, two or three times
- Leaflets wider and less finely divided than above species



**Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*)**

**Also called:** Japanese aralia

**Family name:** Aralia (Araliaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 – Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate newly emerging occurrences only.

**General description:**

- Deciduous tree or shrub, to 40' tall
- Colonial, thicket forming
- Irregular form—spreading, multi- or single-stemmed
- Bark covered in sharp prickles

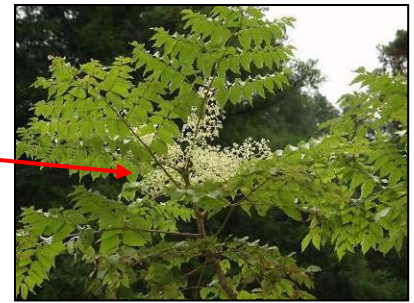


**Leaves:**

- Alternate, 2 or 3 times pinnately compound
- Toothed or nearly toothless with downy hairs below
- Leaflets variable, 2"-4.75" long
- Large, entire leaf 2'-4' feet long
- Leaves turn yellow to reddish purple in fall
- Spines at leaf axils
- Main leaf veins extend to leaf edge
- Leaflet typically with sessile or with very short petiole (stem)



Japanese angelica flowers overtopped by foliage



**Fruit:**

- Small purple to black berries in circular formations
- Appearing August-September; ripening from September -October



**Habitat:**

- Forest, shrubland, meadow, and landscaping

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Devil's Walking Stick (*Aralia spinosa*)**

- Small native tree or shrub
- Inflorescence longer, 3'-3.5' with a distinct central stalk
- Typically taller than wide, usually above foliage
- Main leaf veins branch and diminish at leaf margin
- Leaflets variable, 2"-2.75" long
- Typically with short, but distinct petiole
- Typically southern, extends into PA, DE

Devil's walking stick flowers overtopping foliage



**Flowers:**

- Whitish to cream colored
- Borne in large, inflorescence 12"-24" long
- Clusters multi-stemmed, lacking a central axis
- Often wider than tall, with flower base surrounded or overtopped by foliage
- Blooms late July-August

**Toothache tree, common prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*)**

- Small native tree or shrub
- Prickles paired along stem
- Compound leaves
- Blooms in spring, before leaf out

Toothache tree fruit and once-compound leaves



**Oldwoman (*Artemisia stelleriana*)**

**Also called:** Dusty miller, Beach wormwood, Hoary sagebrush

**Family name:** Aster (Asteraceae)

**Native range:** Russia & Alaska

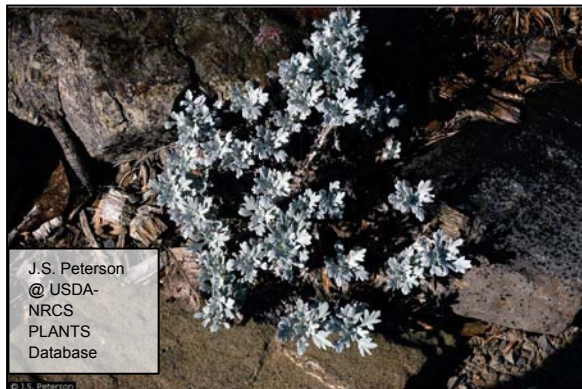
**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *moderately* threatening to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Erect, evergreen herb
- Grows to 2' tall, 3' wide
- Solitary plant with creeping stems

**Leaves:**

- White/gray or pale green felt-like leaves
- Alternate, 2"-4" long, 1" wide
- Dense coating of white hairs
- Few rounded lobes on each leaf
- Sometimes faintly aromatic



**Flowers:**

- Tall, yellow, globe-shaped clusters, 0.25" wide
- Densely packed
- Blooms August-September



**Fruit:**

- Dry seed

**Habitat:**

- Sand dunes, seacoast
- Full to partial sun, sandy, well-drained soil

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Common mullen (*Verbascum thapsus*)**

- Non-native weedy biennial (flowers 2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- Silvery green velvety leaves- 18", un-lobed
- Yellow flower spike- 5' tall, blooms June-September



Common mullen grows a basal rosette the 1<sup>st</sup> year, and flowers the 2<sup>nd</sup>



**White sagebrush (*Artemisia ludoviciana*)**

- Perennial, native to Western US
- 1'-2' tall
- Strong odor of sagebrush
- White & woolly leaves
- Alternate leaves, lobed or unlobed
- Small, tight, greenish flower clusters, blooms August-September
- Stream edges, prairies, disturbed sites

Larry Allain @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

**Prairie sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*)**

- Perennial, native to Western US
- Mat forming shrub, 0.3"-1.3" tall
- Fragrant
- White or gray hairs covering leaves, finely cut
- Lower leaves have a petiole (0.5"), upper leaves cling to stem
- Small yellow flower heads, bloom July-August



**Common Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)**

**Also called:** European barberry

**Family:** Barberry (*Berberidaceae*)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub, 3'-10' tall
- Spines along twigs, **often in groups of 3**
- Bark is yellow to gray
- Inner wood is yellow



3 pronged spines are characteristic of common barberry

**Leaves:**

- Clusters of 3-5
- 0.5"-2" long
- Finely toothed edges
- Small oval shape
- Dull green above, pale below
- Leaves out in early spring and turn bright red in fall



**Flowers:**

- Yellow drooping clusters 1"-2" long, 10-20 flowers in each cluster
- Hang from the underside of branches
- Blooms from May-June
- Unpleasant smell
- 0.25" across



**Fruit:**

- Oblong red to purple berry
- 0.25"-0.5" long
- Ripens in late summer or autumn



**Habitat:**

- Fields, successional forest, wetland, roadside

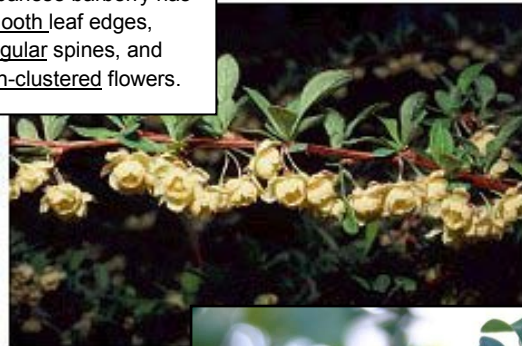
**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)**

- Widespread invasive shrub
- Untoothed leaf edges
- Smaller leaves- 0.5"-1.25"
- Single spine at each node
- Flowers hang in umbrella-shaped clusters
- Red fruit, similar to *B. vulgaris*

Japanese barberry has smooth leaf edges, singular spines, and non-clustered flowers.



**Orange eye butterflybush (*Buddleja davidii*)**

**Family name:** Butterfly bush (Buddlejaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub, 3'-12' tall
- Wide form, with sprawling, arching branches



**Flowers:**

- Slender, often slightly drooping clusters
- Individual flowers densely growing along the center stem
- Color variable: white, pink, red, purple, orange, or yellow
- Blooms July-September



Purple flowers, often with orange centers

**Fruit:**

- Elliptical capsule containing numerous dry seeds
- Ripening in September through October



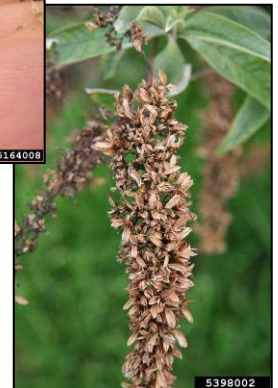
**Leaves:**

- Opposite, slightly toothed
- Often long, narrow
- Oval with tapered, pointed tips
- Dense, silvery hairs underneath



**Habitat:**

- Meadow, roadside, forest edge, landscaping
- Widely planted as an ornamental
- Prefers drier soils.



**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

There are many cultivars and species of butterfly bush. All should be considered invasive.



**Sedge (*Carex spp.*)**

**Family name:** Sedge (Cyperaceae)

**General description:**

- Perennial sedge
- Found in sand dunes and other sandy soils
- Grows about 1' tall
- Colonial

**Leaves:**

- Strap-like leaves coming from the ground
- Greenish-yellow
- 4-12" long

**Fruit:**

- Large spiked seed heads

**Big headed sedge (*Carex macrocephala*)**

**Also called:** Large headed sedge

**Native range:** Pacific Northwest and eastern Asia  
**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Grows in sparse populations, about 40 shoots/m<sup>2</sup>

**Leaves:**

- 2-5 leaves from central point in the ground

**Flowers:**

- Flowers April to May
- Male and female flower heads are on different stalks on the plant
- Female flower heads are 1.5"-3" long and 1"-2" wide
- Male flower heads are 1.5"-2" long and ½" wide



**Fruit:**

- From June to August
- Large spiky seed head, dark brown
- Each seed can be ½"-2" long

**Habitat:** Sandy dunes, full sunlight or partial shade

**Commercial availability:** No

**Japanese Sedge (*Carex kobomugi*)**

**Also called:** Asiatic sand sedge

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

**General description:**

- Populations very dense, about 500 shoots/m<sup>2</sup>

**Leaves:**

- Small ridges along leaf edge, feels serrated



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

**Sedge (*Carex spp.*)**

**Flowers:**

- Male flower forms visible pollen strands, female flowers are spiked



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

**Fruit:**

- Seed heads are light brown



**Habitat:**

- Sandy dunes close to the ocean
- Full sunlight or partial shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**American beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*)**

- Native
- Leaves are 2-3" long, leaves are erect making it as tall as it is long.
- Flowering head is 10" long



## Clematis (*Clematis* spp.)

**Species names:**

Fragrant clematis (*Clematis flammula*) and Japanese clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)

**Family name:** Buttercup (Ranunculaceae)

**General description:**

- Climbing woody vine
- Can be evergreen
- Opposite leaves

**Fragrant clematis (*Clematis flammula*)**

**Also called:** Fragrant virgins bower

**Native range:** Southern Europe and Northern Africa

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated

**General description:**

- 12-20' long



**Leaves:**

- Opposite and bipinnate
- Lance-shaped, 5 to 9 leaflets, each 2-4" long
- Shiny green above, pale green below



**Flowers:**

- Blooms August to October
- Extremely fragrant, smells strongly of sweet almonds
- Less than 2" wide, in bunches
- Variable color



**Fruit:**

- Small brown seeds with white feathery plume, plume is persistent
- Seed is then 1" long



**Habitat:**

- Forest edges, landscaping, gardens

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Japanese clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)**

**Also called:** Sweet autumn virgins bower, leatherleaf clematis

**Native range:** Japan

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 - Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Can grow 20-40' in one year, very aggressive



**Leaves:**

- Opposite
- Compound with 5 (occasionally 3) oval or heart shaped leaves
- Usually untoothed



**Flowers:**

- Small, white, 4 petals
- Fragrant
- Abundant, forms a very noticeable blanket of flowers
- Blooms August to September



**Fruit:**

- Showy cluster of seeds
- Long feather plums, persistent



**Habitat:**

- Forest edges, floodplains, streams and shores
- Prefers sun/partial shade, but tolerates full shade

**Commercial Availability: Yes**

**Look-alikes:**

**Virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*)**

- Native climbing vine
- Can reach heights of 10-20"
- Toothed leaves
- Flowers 1" wide, small and white
- Showy seed head with many feathery plumes



**Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)**

**Also called:** Poison parsley

**Family name:** Carrot (Apiaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 - Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately* threatening to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Biennial herb (after 2 years, it sets seed and dies), to 3'-10'
- Smooth green stems are stout, hollow and purple spotted
- Crushed foliage and roots have a disagreeable parsnip-like smell
- Thick white taproot
- **Poisonous- Can result in death if ingested**



**Fruit:**

- Seeds borne in pairs, atop umbrella shaped clusters
- Fruit cluster is same shape as flower cluster



**Habitat:**

- Roadsides, open fields, stream banks, and other disturbed areas
- Dry to moist soil

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)**

- Native to Eurasia, weedy, commonly eaten
- Yellow flowers in umbrella-shaped clusters
- Over 5' tall
- **CAUTION: Contains chemicals in leaves that may cause skin irritation when exposed to sun**



Yellow flowers of parsnip

**Leaves:**

- Shiny green, fern-like
- 3-4 times pinnately compound



**Flowers:**

- Blooms in June
- White in umbrella shaped clusters, 1.5-2.5"

**Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)**

- Native to North America
- Found in moist soils
- Leaves are compound and serrated
- Grows to 6.5'
- White, umbrella flowers
- Smooth stems, purple at nodes
- When crushed- licorice scent
- **May be fatal if eaten!**



Non-fern-like leaves of water hemlock

**Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)**

- Roadside weed, 1'-3' tall
- Fern-like leaves
- White, flat-topped flowers
- White taproot has carrot scent
- Lacking purple spots on stem

**Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)**

**Family name:** Dogwood (Cornaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous tree or multi-stemmed shrub
- 15'- 30' tall
- Light grey to brown bark, mature bark can peel



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, simple, oval to ovate, untoothed
- 2-4" long, shiny dark green turning pink in the fall
- Distinct veining pattern that curves toward tip



**Flowers:**

- Showy white to pink modified leaves (bracts) pointed at end
- Blooms May-June



**Fruit:**

- Berry-like fruit, 1" wide
- Pinkish red, edible
- Stony seeds



Liz West

**Habitat:**

- Landscaping
- Full sun to shade
- Well-drained soil

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)**

- Native small tree, typically single stemmed
- Bracts has notches on end
- Patchy "alligator skin" bark
- Blooms early April-May
- Small red fruit, in clusters



UGA1380084



Martin LaBar

UGA1346060

**Shrubby Doggwood (*Cornus spp*)**

- Native
- Multi-stemmed shrub
- Flat topped flower clusters
- White or blue fruits, depending on the species
- Thicket-forming, typically found in moist soils

**Black Swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*)**

**Also called:** Dog strangle vine, Louise’s swallow-wort, *Cynanchum nigrum*, *Vincetoxicum nigrum*

**Family name:** Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 - Rare (may be locally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Herbaceous, perennial, twining vine
- Grows to 6’ long
- Stem is unbranched
- Stems and seed pods can persist through winter

**Leaves:**

- Opposite, toothless
- Shiny, dark green
- Oval to lance-shaped
- 2”-5” long and 0.5”-2.5” wide



**Flowers:**

- Dark purple or brown clusters of 6-10 flowers
- Clusters are produced opposite each other
- Blooms May-July
- 5 petals are fleshy and triangular with short straight, white hairs on upper surface

**Fruit:**

- Occur in tapered seed pods, 1.5”-3” long
- Immature pods are green; brown when mature
- Individual seeds are brown and flat with a tuft of white hairs



**Habitat:**

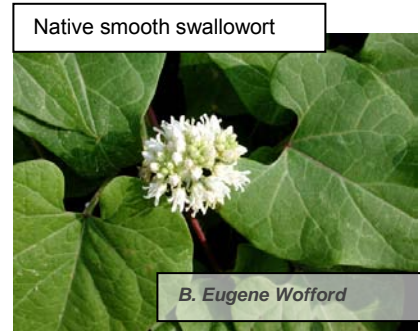
- Forest, edge, floodplain, wetland

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Smooth swallowwort (*Cynanchum laeve*)**

- Native, perennial twining vine
- Large clusters of white flowers
- Leaves have a distinct heart-shaped base
- Fruit contained in pods, similar to milkweed pods
- NOTE: There are no records of Smooth swallowwort in NJ, but there are records from neighboring states



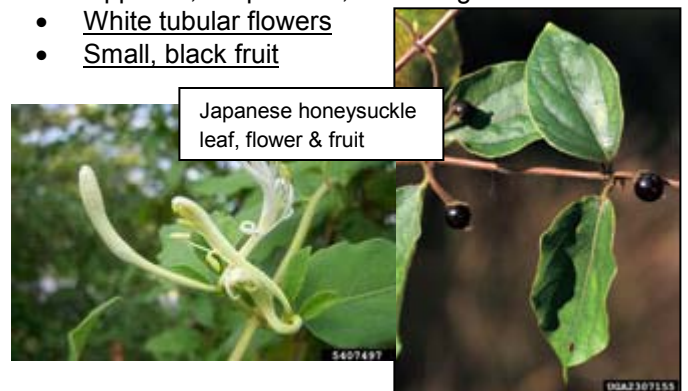
**Pale swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*)**

- Highly invasive, twining, perennial vine
- Leaves are opposite, dark green, shiny
- Blooms June-July
- Flowers are pink to reddish, 5-petals, star-shaped clusters
- Fruit contained in pods, similar to milkweed pods
- Invades upland areas with a wide range of light and moisture conditions



**Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)**

- Highly invasive twining, vine or groundcover
- Semi-evergreen
- Opposite, simple dark, lustrous green leaves
- White tubular flowers
- Small, black fruit



# Rock Spot (*Didymosphenia geminata*)

Also called: Didymo

Family name: (Gomphonemataceae)

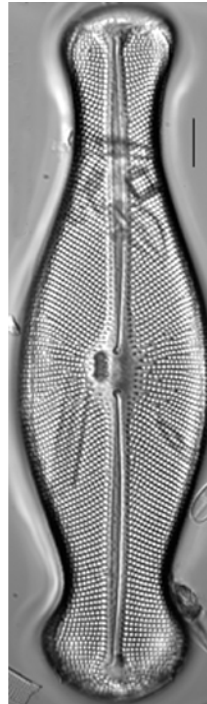
Native range: Alpine forest in northern Hemisphere

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare, currently found upstream in Delaware. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

- Looks like wet toilet paper
- Has the texture of wet wool or cotton, fibrous not slimy or slippery
- Not easy to pull apart
- Blooms in cooler temperatures but has been recently known to tolerant of warmer conditions



Mark Hoddle



Loren Bahls



Mark Hoddle

### Threat to ecosystem:

- Blankets streams or lakebeds.
- Blocks plants from sunlight and animals that eat plants from reaching them.
- Greatly reduces dissolved oxygen content in water.



### General description:

- Freshwater, single cell, diatom (a type of algae)
- Attaches itself to a solid surface with a stalk
- Can reproduce asexually, resulting in large mats
- Found in rivers, streams, and lakes. Prefers flowing water sources
- Can spread from a single drop of water containing the diatom
- Light brown, brownish yellow, or white



### Look-alikes:

#### *Cymbella mexicana* var. *janischi*

- Another variety of diatom similar to *D. geminata* found in the West Branch of the Delaware River.

**Chinese yam (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*)**

**Also called:** Cinnamon vine, *Dioscorea batatas*

**Family name:** Yam (Dioscoreaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

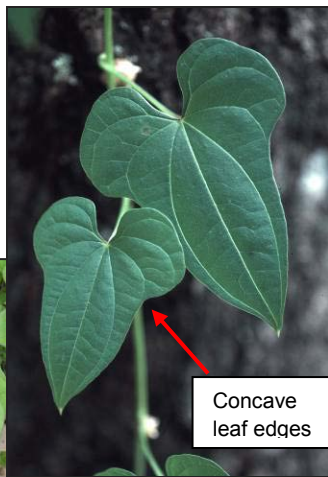
**General description:**

- Perennial, herbaceous, twining vine or groundcover
- Deep, persistent, root-like tuber up to 3' long that resprouts annually
- On stem, above ground tubers (bulbils), which resemble small potatoes



**Leaves:**

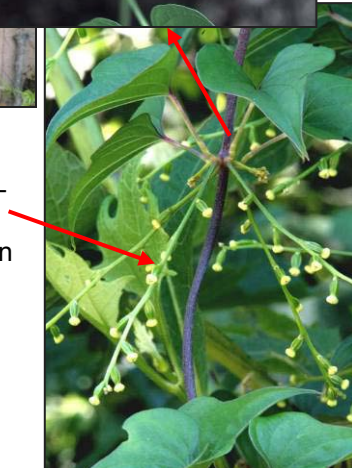
- Oval to heart-shaped
- Mature leaves concave at sides
- Opposite, occasionally alternate or whorled towards branch tips
- Young leaves can be bronze colored
- Reddish-purple colored along the leaf margins, petioles, and stems
- 7 to 9 veins
- 1.5"-3" long



Concave leaf edges

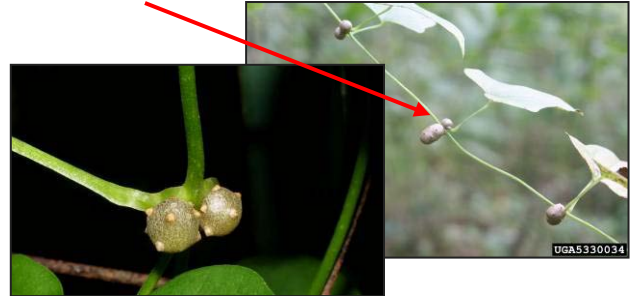
**Flowers:**

- Small, white to greenish-yellow
- Appearing in leaf axils on a spike
- Cinnamon fragrance
- Blooms in July



**Fruit:**

- Papery, three-sided capsules
- Also produces small tubers (bulbils) at leaf axils
- Spread through distribution of bulbils



**Habitat:**

- Forest, riparian areas, and landscaping
- Part-sun to shade

**Commercial availability:** No

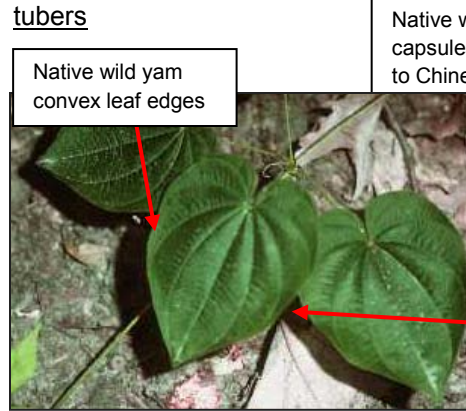
**Look-alikes:**

**Wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa* and *Dioscorea quaternata*)**

- Native, twining vine of forest or forest edge
- Heart-shaped leaves, convex at sides
- Lacks above-ground tubers



Native wild yam seed capsules look similar to Chinese yam



Native wild yam convex leaf edges

**Greenbriar (*Smilax* sp.)**

- Native forest vine or tangles shrub
- Green stems with stiff prickles
- Climbs with tendrils
- Heart-shaped, shiny green leaves



**Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*)**

**Family name:** Teasel (Dipsacaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Biennial herb to 6.5' and taller
- Dried stalks and flowers can persist through winter
- Stems prickly along raised ridges
- NOTE- may hybridize with common teasel



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, often fused at the base
- Stem leaves lance-shaped and deeply lobed
- Midrib prickly
- First year plant—basal rosette of lobed leaves



**Flowers:**

- Flowerhead oblong and densely covered in small, white to pale lavender flowers
- Each plant stalk terminates in flowerhead
- 4 petal-like parts
- Surrounded by straight, outwardly spreading bracts—bracts typically not taller than the flower cluster
- Blooms July-August



**Fruit:**

- Small, oblong seeds
- Appear as flower dries in early fall

**Habitat:**

- Meadows, roadsides, fens
- Prefers moist ground

**Commercial availability:** Not found

**Look-alikes:**

**Common Teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*)**

- Invasive spiny biennial
- Flowers typically lavender
- Leaves entire
- Bracts at base of flowerhead curl upward, often longer than flowerhead



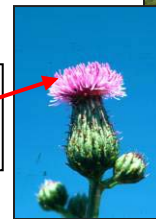
Common teasel has upcurved bracts, longer than flower

**Thistle species (*Cirsium* spp.)**

- Native and non-native, spiny biennial
- Leaves alternate
- Flowers clustered on disc-shaped flowerhead
- Typically purple to pink



Thistles have a flattened disc-shaped flower



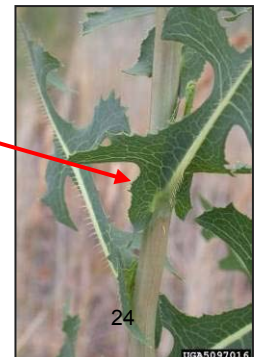
Thistles have downy seeds

**Wild Lettuce species (*Lactuca* spp.)**

- Native and non-native, spiny biennial
- Leaves alternate
- Milky sap



Wild lettuce leaves are alternate



# Brazilian Waterweed (*Egeria densa*)

**Also called:** Brazilian elodea, dense waterweed, leafy elodea, anacharis

**Family name:** Frogbit (Hydrocharitaceae)

**Native range:** Southeastern South America

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Aquatic submerged plant, single stem
- Can grow in water as deep as 12'
- Can grow up to 6' long



Source: Amy Murray, UFL  
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

**Leaves:**

- Bright green, whorled, 4-8 (typically 4) leaflets each 1" long
- Serrated, but a magnifying glass is needed to see it.



**Flowers:**

- Blooms June-October
- Flower is 1" above water surface
- White, with three petals
- 0.5"-1" wide



**Fruit:**

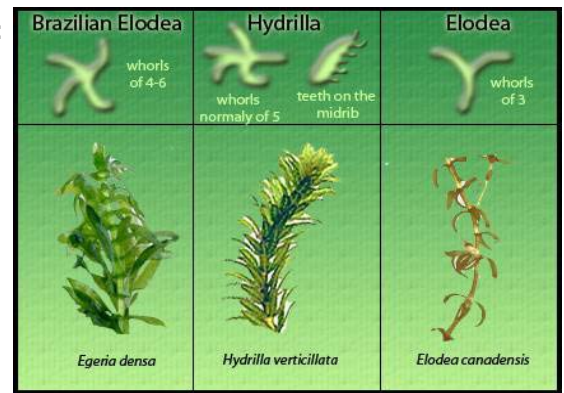
- Fruit has not been seen outside of its native range, all plants in US are male, no seeds
- Reproduces by fragmentation

**Habitat:**

- Lakes, ponds, and slow moving streams and rivers

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**



**Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*):**

- Can grow up to 25 feet long.
- Whorls of 5
- Leaves are serrated and plants can produce seeds. Leave have spines on mid rib
- Note: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant

**American waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*)**

- Native
- Whorled, 3 leaflets and it much smaller than Brazilian water weed.
- Produces tubers and turions

**Western waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)**

- Invasive
- 1-3-5' long, branched
- Whorled, 3 leaflets (sometimes 4)
- Produce seeds



**Water-hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)**

**Also called:** common water hyacinth, water-orchid

**Family name:** Pontederiaceae

**Native range:** South America

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. Not known to occur in NJ but found in southern states and DC. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Free floating aquatic perennial
- Grows up to 3' tall
- Roots blue-black to dark purple
- Can reproduce by seeds or runners



**Leaves:**

- Thick, waxy, round leaves
- 6" wide
- Thick, spongy, bulbous petiole that grows up to 12" long



**Flowers:**

- Showy 12" long spike
- Flowers are each 2" wide, pale purple with one yellow spot
- Each flower has 6 petals



Photo by Vladimir Dinets, University of Miami, Bugwood.org

**Fruit:**

- 3-celled capsule with many seeds
- Fruit and seeds rarely seen

**Habitat:**

- Lakes, ponds, slow moving waterways, ditches, and backwater areas

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*):**

- Native, emergent aquatic plant.
- Flower spike 6"-8" long
- Blooms from bottom to top
- Flowers are bluish-purple with two yellow spots
- Arrow shaped leaf



**Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)**

**Family name:** Oleaster (Elaeagnaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub to small tree 15'-35' with a suckering habit
- Rounded form with loose branching
- Stems, buds and leaf undersides covered in silvery to rusty scales
- Occasionally thorny



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, lance-shaped, 1"-3" long, toothless
- Silvery on both sides

**Flowers:**

- Yellowish inside, silvery outside
- 0.4" long, bell-shaped, fragrant
- Single or in clusters in leaf axils
- 4 petals
- Fragrant
- Blooms in May



Russian olive leaves are silvery on both sides

**Fruit:**

- Yellow, hard, maturing in September
- Ellipsoid, 0.5" long
- Covered in silvery scales

**Habitat:**

- Waste ground, old fields, meadows, stream and lake edges
- Often found on sandy, bare mineral soils
- Seedlings shade tolerant



**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)**

- Widespread invasive of meadows and fields
- Shrub or small tree to 12'
- Blooms late May, fruits September-November
- Fruit round to oval, 0.25", red to pink (occasionally orange), soft, juicy, covered in silvery scales
- Leaves silvery below
- Flowers cream colored, fragrant



Autumn olive fruit



Autumn olive leaves are silvery beneath

**Five-leaf Aralia (*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus*)**

Also called: *Acanthopanax sieboldianus* 'Variegatus'

Family name: Aralia (Araliaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Fast growing deciduous shrub
- 6'-8' tall and 6'-8' wide
- Branches arcing
- Short spines at each leaf bud along the stems



**Leaves:**

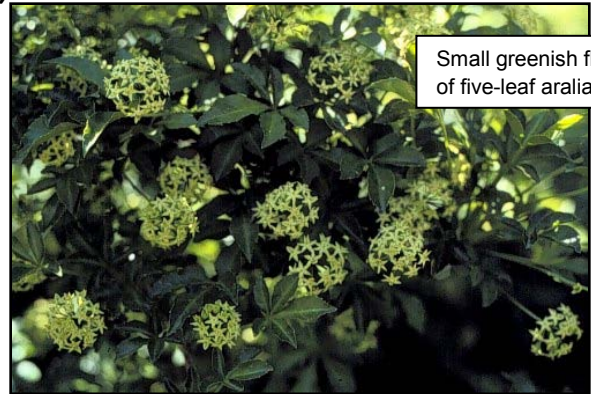
- Alternate, toothed
- Palmately compound leaves with 5-7 leaflets
- 1"-2.5" long
- Rich, dark green
- Variegated forms have leaves edged in white
- Leaves remain late into fall (no fall color)
- Variegated varieties in cultivation

Spines at each leaf base



**Flowers:**

- Small, greenish white
- Born in clusters
- Blooms May-June



Small greenish flowers of five-leaf aralia

**Fruit:**

- Small
- Green to black
- Borne in clusters



**Habitat:**

- Forest, open forest, edge, hedgerow, landscaping
- Highly tolerant of a wide range of conditions

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Goutweed (or Bishop's weed) (*Aegopodium podagraria*)**

- Weedy groundcover-widely planted
- Most leaves are basal with flower stalk protruding (to 3')
- Leaves in groups of 3
- Some varieties may have white edges

Goutweed



**Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)**



- Native deciduous vine with tendrils
- Palmately compound leaves, 3 to 5 leaflets
- Purple to red fall color
- Bluish berries
- Lacking spines

**Weeping lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)**

**Family name:** Poa (Poaceae)

**Native range:** Southern Africa

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2- Uncommon (may be regionally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Warm-season, perennial grass, 1'-4' tall
- Clumping habit
- Not rhizomatous
- Does not spread from nodes



**Leaves:**

- Typically reclining rather than upright
- Arched, flat, narrow, 0.1" wide
- Grey-green
- Ligule (tongue-like organ located at leaf/stem junction) with long hairs
- Fringed sheath (leaf base surrounding stem)



Fringed sheath



Weeping lovegrass in cultivation

**Habitat:**

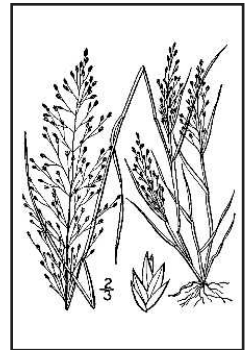
- Roadsides, meadows, Pine Barrens, landscaping
- Planted as an ornamental and for erosion control

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Frank's love grass (*Eragrostis frankii*)**

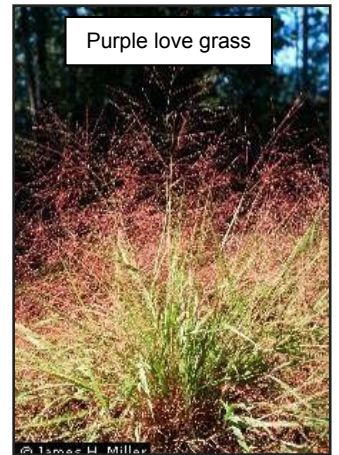
- Rare (NJ Natural Heritage Database), native, annual grass of moist stream banks
- 4"-12" tall
- Blooms September
- Typically erect



Frank's love grass

**Purple love grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)**

- Native, perennial grass of sandy fields and roadsides
- 1'-3' tall
- Blooms June-October
- Seedhead is bright purple until maturity, then breaking off easily



Purple love grass

**Flowers:**

- Diffuse, not showy
- Nodding, small. 0.2"-0.4" long, 0.1" wide and gray-green
- Blooms late summer-early fall

**Fruit:**

- Small, yellow seeds



Chinese fountain grass



**Chinese fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)**

- Ornamental, non-native, perennial grass
- Up to 3' tall
- Blooms dense, in September
- Typically erect

**European spindletree (*Euonymus europaea*)**

**Family name:** Bittersweet (Celastraceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 - Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub or small tree, 12'-30' tall
- Greenish-red twigs, gray-brown older bark



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, oval-shaped
- Finely toothed leaf margins
- Dull green
- 1-3" long
- Red autumn foliage



**Flowers:**

- Inconspicuous, 0.5" wide
- Yellow-green
- 4 petal-like parts
- Blooms May-June



flower and fruit structures have four parts

**Fruit:**

- Four-part, ornamental seed casing opens to reveal red to pink fruits
- Smooth seed casing (red to pink)
- Oval, 0.5"-0.75"
- Matures September-October

**Habitat:**

- Forests, floodplains, landscaping
- Full or partial shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

The *Euonymus* species are best differentiated by growth habit and flower and fruit structure.

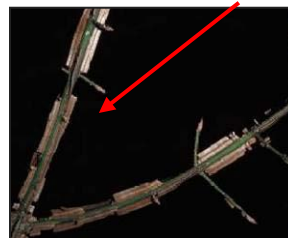
**Hearts-a-bursting/strawberry-bush (*Euonymus americanus*)**

- Native suckering shrub, 7'
- Moist forests, floodplains
- Green twigs, 4-angled
- 5 part flowers and fruits
- Seed casings bumpy



**Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)**

- Widespread invasive shrub up to 15'
- Moist forests, landscaping
- 4 part flowers and fruits
- Branches winged or corky



**Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)**

- Invasive shrub, vine or groundcover
- Toothed edges
- Central leaf vein is whitish
- Partially evergreen
- 4 parted flowers and fruits
- NOTE: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant

**Running strawberry-bush (*Euonymus obovatus*)**

- Shrub or groundcover to 1' tall
- 5 parted flowers and fruits

**Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)**

**Family name:** Bittersweet (Celastraceae)

**Native range:** China

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 - Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Evergreen vine, shrub or groundcover
- Climbs by aerial rootlets
- Popular landscaping plant with numerous cultivars



Cultivar with yellow foliage



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, oval-shaped
- Finely toothed leaf margins
- Dark green with lighter veins
- 1-3" long on sterile shoots or 2.5"-4" long on flowering branches



**Flowers:**

- Inconspicuous, greenish
- 4 petal-like parts
- Borne on horizontal, non-rootlet bearing branches that grow from climbing branches
- Blooms May-June

**Fruit:**

- 4 parts
- Red orange hanging fruits
- Matures in October and persists through winter



**Habitat:**

- Forests, floodplains, landscaping
- Full or partial shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

The *Euonymus* species are best differentiated by growth habit and flower and fruit structure.

**Hearts-a-bursting/strawberry-bush (*Euonymus americanus*)**

- Native suckering shrub, 7'
- Moist forests, floodplains
- Green twigs, 4-angled
- 5 part flowers and fruits
- Seed casings bumpy



**Running strawberry-bush (*Euonymus obovatus*)**

- Shrub or groundcover to 1' tall
- 5 part flowers and fruits

**Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)**

- Widespread invasive shrub, up to 15'
- Moist forests, landscaping
- 4 part flowers and fruits
- Branches winged or corky



**European spindletree (*Euonymus europaea*)**

- Invasive shrub up to 30'
- Moist forests and landscaping
- Lacks lighter veins
- 4 part flowers and fruits
- NOTE: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



**Common periwinkle, creeping myrtle (*Vinca minor*)**

- Invasive evergreen, groundcover
- Leaves opposite, untoothed, light veining
- Flowers blue, 5 petals, solitary, located at stem axils



**Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)**

**Also called:** European alder buckthorn

**Family name:** Buckthorn family (Rhamnaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Colonial, deciduous tree or shrub to 20' tall
- Young branches covered in short, soft hairs
- Twigs spineless

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, occasionally opposite
- Untoothed, tapered at the tip, edges wavy
- 1"-2.5" long
- Dark green with short hairs below and shiny above
- Turning greenish-yellow to yellow in the fall and persisting



**Flowers:**

- Inconspicuous with 5 green-white petals
- Small, axillary clusters of 2-8 flowers
- Blooms May-June



**Fruit:**

- Round, single-seeded fruits, 0.25"
- Ripening from red to black- July/August
- Flowers, partially ripe and ripe fruits may appear at the same time



**Habitat:**

- Forest, meadow, roadside, landscaping
- Prefers wet or moist soil

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

See Common buckthorn Fact Sheet for more information.

**Alder-leaved buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*)**

- Native shrub, 3' tall
- Leaves alternate, toothed
- Twigs not spine tipped
- Clusters of 1-3 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 3-seeded

**Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)**

- Invasive European tree to 20' tall
- Leaves toothed
- Opposite or nearly so
- Clusters of 10-15 flowers per inflorescence
- Twigs often spine tipped
- Fruits 4-seeded
- NOTE: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



**Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)**

- Invasive large shrub to small tree to 23'
- Leaves opposite or nearly so, finely toothed
- Twigs often spine tipped
- Numerous flowers
- Fruits 2-seeded



Flowers more numerous than on common or glossy buckthorn

- NOTE: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant

**Lanceolate buckthorn (*Rhamnus lanceolata*)**

- Native shrub, 3'-6' tall
- Leaves alternate, toothed
- Twigs not spine tipped
- Clusters of 2-3 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 2-seeded

# Mudmat (*Glossostigma cleistanthum*)

**Family name:** Lopseed (Phrymaceae)

**Native range:** Australia and New Zealand

**NJ Status:** Emerging stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Herb, perennial if submerged or annual if emergent
- Shallow root system
- Forms dense mats



USGS:  
Colette  
Jacone



USGS: Colette Jacone

**Fruit:**

- Seeds present in U.S.
- Tiny capsules, very difficult to find

**Habitat:**

- Full sunlight
- Littoral zone, shoreline of a water source

**Commercial availability:** No

**Look-alikes:**

**Mudwort (*Limosella subulata*)**

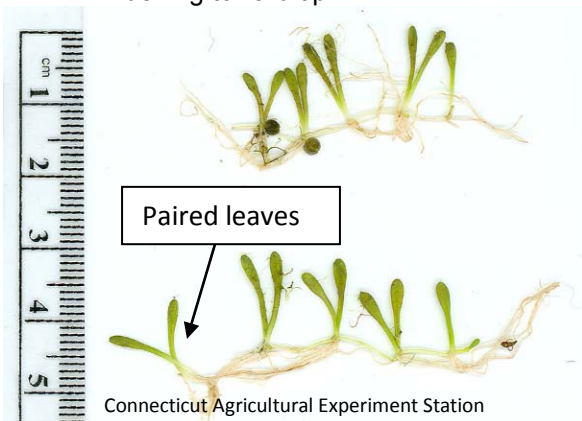
- Native, rare
- 1-2" tall
- 5 petal, white and delicate flower, 1/8" wide
- Blooms July to October



© 2010 Louis M. Landry (CalPhotos)

**Leaves:**

- Leaves 0.5-1" long, paired
- Bright green
- Spatulate-shaped leaf, thin at base of widening toward tip



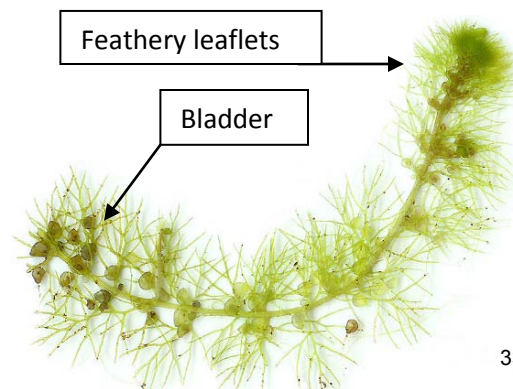
Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

**Flowers:**

- Blooms August to November
- Tiny bell-shaped, pastel colored flowers

**Bladderwort (*Utricularia spp*)**

- Native, carnivorous
- 8" tall, small feathery leaves
- Flower is yellow with 3 petals and a spur underneath
- Leaves are whorled, 4-10 leaflets
- Produces "bladders," a small oval structure that traps small aquatic organisms



**English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)**

**Family name:** Ginseng (Araliaceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 - Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *moderately* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Perennial, climbing, evergreen vine or groundcover
- Climbs using small, sticky root-like structures
- Can smother shrubs and trees
- Older vines can grow to 1” in diameter

NOTE: English ivy serves as a reservoir for Bacterial Leaf Scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*), a pathogen that is harmful to elms, oaks, maples and other native plants.



**Flowers:**

- Small, pale yellow-green
- Borne on terminal clusters
- Blooms Aug-September
- Flowering triggered by sunlight (often requires climbing to flower)
- Vines may grow for up to 10 years before flowering



- Black to purple fruits
- Thin fleshy outer covering
- 1 to 3 hard seeds
- Ripening October-November

**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, field, coastal area, garden
- Prefers drier sites
- Highly invasive in warmer climates

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, dark green with white veins
- Waxy or leathery
- No toothing on edges
- Usually 3 to 5 lobes per leaf- leaves may appear triangular
- Mature, flowering plants may have unlobed rounded or heart shaped leaves
- Many cultivars are available making leaf color variable- may be edged in white, reddish, or yellowish



**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)**

- Highly **invasive** climbing vine or groundcover
- Deciduous- reddish fall color
- Leaves are bright, glossy green
- Toothed edge
- See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



**Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)**

- **Native** deciduous vine
- White berries
- Leaves in groups of 3, may have reddish tinge
- Hairy stems



## Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Family name: Parsley (Apiaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

### General description:

- Large biennial or perennial, 8'-15' tall
- Stems rough-hairy and hollow, 2"-4" wide often with red-purple splotches and ridges
- Dried stems persist into winter
- Federal noxious weed
- **DO NOT TOUCH!** Exposure to sap can cause severe skin reactions: light sensitivity, blistering, inflammation, and potential blindness



### Leaves:

- Alternate, sharply and coarsely lobed with pointed teeth
- Up to 5' wide & 10' long
- Seedling leaves are less deeply lobed
- Short, dense hairs below and at base of leaf stem



Purple, hairy stem

### Flowers:

- Flat-topped, umbrella-like clusters of 50-150 small, white flowers
- Each cluster can be up 5' wide
- Blooms June-August



### Fruit:

- Dry, flat, 2.5" oval
- Narrow, brown resin canals
- Ripening in August



### Habitat:

- Roadsides, edges, open woods, meadows
- Prefers rich, moist soil, part-shade
- Once planted as an ornamental

**Commercial availability:** No, historically available

### Look-alikes:

There are many native and non-native species in the carrot family, all bloom in flat-topped umbels. The following are most easily confused with giant hogweed because of their large size.

#### Cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)

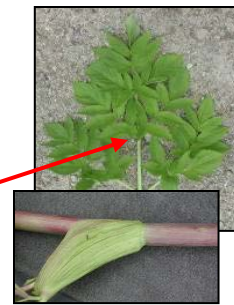
- Common, large (though still smaller than giant hogweed), native perennial of moist soils
- 4'-9' tall
- Stem deeply ridged, green or purplish, covered in soft hairs
- Leaves compound, with 3 coarsely toothed leaflets, 2'-2.5' wide
- Flat-topped cluster 6"-12" wide with 10-30 small white flowers
- **WARNING:** Can cause skin reactions similar to but less severe than hogweed



3 leaflets

#### Purple-stem angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*)

- Native perennial of moist soils, 4'-8' Stem smooth, waxy, purple
- Leaves doubly compound, with dozens of leaflets, 1'-2' wide



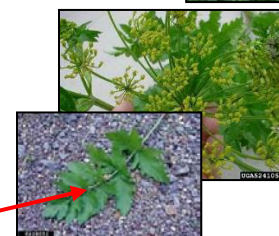
#### Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

- Non-native perennial, moist soils, 4'-9'
- Stem smooth, purple blotches
- Leaves glossy, fern-like, 1'-2' wide
- Numerous, white clusters, 1"-3" wide
- See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



#### Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

- Non-native perennial, 2'-5'
- Stem hairy, grooved
- Leaves yellow-green
- Yellow flower clusters, 4"-8" wide



5-11 leaflets and yellow flowers

**Japanese hop (*Humulus japonica*)**

**Family name:** Hemp (Cannabaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

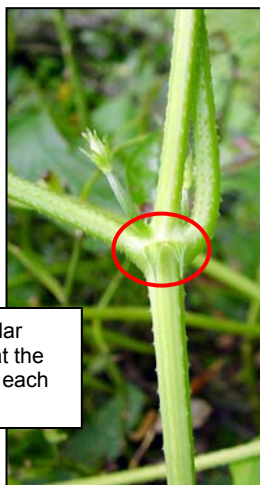
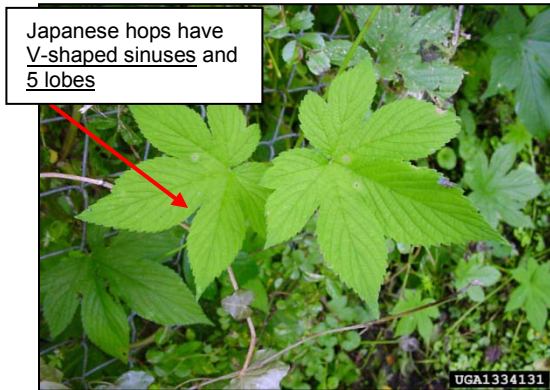
**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 - Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Climbing or trailing annual vine
- Climbs by twining (lacks tendrils)
- 1.5-8' long
- Stems have small, downwardly curving prickles
- **WARNING: This plant can cause rashes or blistering. Handle with gloves.**

**Leaves:**

- Opposite, toothed, rough
- Divided into 5-9 distinct lobes
- V-shaped sinuses
- Younger leaves can have 3-5 lobes
- 2"-5" long
- Leaves are borne on long petioles (stems)
- Triangular bracts occur at the base of leaf stems



**Flowers:**

- Male and female flowers grow on separate plants
- Male flowers: 6"-10" long
- Female: cone-shaped spikes, 0.25"-0.4" long
- Individual flowers are small and greenish
- Blooms July-early October

**Fruit:**

- Ripening in July-September
- Hanging papery capsules



**Habitat:**

- Abandoned fields, forest edge, streambanks
- Often found in open disturbed areas, especially in moist soil

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Common hop**

(*Humulus lupulus*)

- Vine- 3 native varieties, 2 exotic
- Its leaves are wider than Japanese hop and have U-shaped sinuses

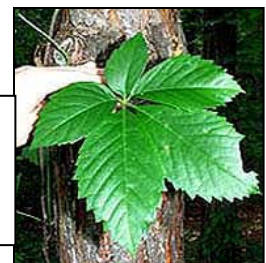


**Virginia creeper**

(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

- Native trailing or climbing vine
- Compound leaf with 5 leaflets- climbs with tendrils
- Lacking prickles

5 deeply divided leaflets of Virginia creeper



# Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

**Also called:** Esthwaite waterweed

**Family name:** Frogbit (Hydrocharitaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Freshwater submerged aquatic plant
- Herbaceous perennial
- Slender stems, can grow up to 25' long
- Can grow in shallow water and in water as deep as 30'



**Leaves:**

- Whirled, normally 5 leaflets
- Each leaflet 0.25--.75" long
- Serrated
- Midrib has one or more sharp spines
- Has an auxiliary leaf scale that is unique to Hydrilla



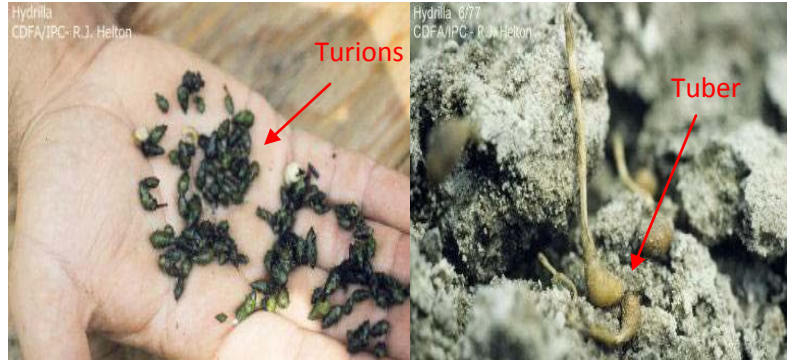
**Flowers:**

- A single tiny white flower
- 3 translucent petals



**Fruit:**

- Reproduces via fragmentation, by using buds (turions) or tubers
- Can produce seeds in southern US but not seen north of South Carolina. More prolific in the south because of this



**Habitat:** Ponds, lakes, and slow moving or still water

**Commercial availability:** No

**Look-alikes:**

Brazilian Elodea	Hydrilla	Elodea
whorls of 4-6	whorls normally of 5 teeth on the midrib	whorls of 3
<i>Egeria densa</i>	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>

**American Waterweed (*Elodea Canadensis*)**

- Native,
- Has three whirled leaflets and it much smaller than Brazilian water weed
- It can produce seeds

**Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*)**

- Invasive
- Whirled, 4-6 leaflets
- Cannot produce tubers or turions

**Common Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)**

**Also called:** European frog-bit

**Family name:** Frogbit (Hydrocharitaceae)

**Native range:** Europe and northern Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Free floating, perennial, aquatic plant
- Extensive root system
- Creates dense mats on water surface



**Leaves:**

- Kidney shaped, 1-3.5" wide
- Lush green surface with a purplish-red spongy underside



**Flowers:**

- Blooms June to August
- Small white single flower with yellow center, 1" wide, 3 petals



**Fruit:**

- Reproduces by fragmentation via buds, turions, 0.2" long in the US. Does not produce seeds



**Habitat:**

- Ponds, lakes, slow moving water ways

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**White water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*)**

- Native
- Large leaf, 10" and a large showy white flower, 2-6"



**Little floating heart (*Nymphoides cordata*)**

- Native
- 5 petal white flower
- Produces fruit



**Paleyellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)**

**Also called:** Yellow flag iris

**Family name:** Iris (Iridaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 – Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Herbaceous clump-forming perennial
- 3'-4' tall
- Strong roots, that are pink in color



**Leaves:**

- Broad, sword-shaped, emanating from a central base
- About 1.6'-3.3' long
- Stiff, upright
- Glaucous (waxy coating)



**Flowers:**

- Showy, bright yellow, (occasionally whitish to cream-colored)
- Multiple flowers grow on each stem
- Individual flowers 2.75"-3.5" wide
- Blooms late April-June



**Fruit:**

- 6-angled seed capsule containing up to 120 seeds
- Mature capsule opens into 3 widely spreading segments
- Seeds mature from white to brown
- Ripens in July-August



**Habitat:**

- Floodplain forest, marsh, wet meadow, shores
- Tolerates water up to 10" deep
- Tolerates salt, drought and some pollution

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Northern blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)**

- Native iris
- Purple to blue flower, with a small yellow patch on sepals
- Fruit capsules are 3-angled, remaining closed at maturity
- Roots not pink



Blue flag's purple flowers, with some yellow on the sepals



**German iris (*Iris germanica*)**

- Non-native iris, occasionally escaped
- Flowers variable in size and color, but petals always bearded (fuzzy)
- Fruit capsules are 3-angled, remaining closed at maturity

German iris is an occasional garden escape



**Castor aralia (*Kalopanax septemlobus*)**

**Also called:** Prickly Castor-oil Tree, Kalopanax

**Family name:** Ginseng (Araliaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Medium to large deciduous tree
- 40-60' tall
- Gray to black bark, has spines



Sten Porse

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, palmate, 8-12" wide
- Leaves are dark glossy green, 5 to 7 lobes
- Leaves turn yellow or red in autumn
- Slightly toothed



Dalgial

**Flowers:**

- Blooms July to early August
- Branched clusters of small white flowers
- Clusters are 1-2' across, very showy



Dalgia

**Fruit:**

- Ripens in October
- Small black drupe produced where flower clusters were.



Keith Edkins

**Habitat:**

- Full to partial sun, well drained soil
- Fields, forest, landscaping,

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)**

- Native deciduous tree, 60-75' tall
- Palmate leaf with 5 lobes, smells like liquorish when crushed
- Leaves turn bright orange and red in autumn
- Fruit is a woody and prickly, 1-1½" wide



Jessica Lucia

**Chinese Bush Clover (*Lespedeza cuneata*)**

**Also called:** Sericea lespedeza

**Family name:** Pea (Fabaceae)

**Native range:** Eastern Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 - Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Upright semi-woody perennial herb from 3'-6'
- Single to many stemmed
- Extensive root system



silvery hairs below

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, abundant, three-parted
- Leaflets have with short bristles at the tips
- Narrow, 0.5-1" long
- Covered in silvery hairs below



3-part, bristle-tipped



**Flowers:**

- Whitish to purplish
- Born in clusters of 2-4 in leaf axils
- Blooms July -October



**Fruit:**

- Small, oval, yellow to reddish brown
- Maturing late summer-fall



**Habitat:**

- Open woodlands, roadsides, fields, meadows, wetlands, Pine Barrens
- Planted for erosion control, mine reclamation wildlife habitat



**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

Numerous species of native and non-native bush clovers (*Lespedeza* spp.) are found in NJ. Some species differ from *Lespedeza cuneata* in habit, flower arrangement and leaf shape.

**Slender bush clover (*Lespedeza virginica*)**

- Native, occasional in dry fields, stony banks and serpentine barrens
- 1'-3.5' tall
- Few branches
- Leaves 0.4"-1.4" long, lacking bristle tip
- Flowers purple in dense clusters in upper leaf axils
- Blooms August-September

Slender bush clover



**Narrow-leaved bush clover (*Lespedeza angustifolia*)**

- Native, rare in moist, open sandy soils
- 1.5'-4' tall
- Flowers yellowish, in dense clusters
- Leaves 1"-2.5" long
- Leaflets very narrow, lacking bristle tip

**Italian honeysuckle (*Lonicera caprifolium*)**

**Also called:** Italian woodbine, perfoliate honeysuckle

**Family name:** Honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *moderately* threatening to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

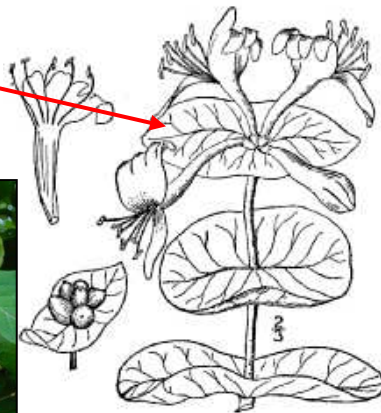
**General description:**

- Deciduous to semi-evergreen vine
- Growing to 20'
- Aggressive

**Leaves:**

- Opposite leaves, toothless
- Oval shape
- Dark green above, grayish beneath
- Leaves directly below flowers are perfoliate (leaf bases are fused)

**Perfoliate leaves** are fused at the base and surround the stem. They grow below the flower



**Flowers:**

- Abundant, yellow-white tubular flowers—may have a red tinge but mature to yellow, 2" long
- Fragrant, especially at night
- Surrounded by perfoliate leaves
- Blooms from August-September (or later depending on frost)



**Fruit:**

- Red to orange berries
- Grow at the tip of branch
- Ripen October-November



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, meadow, garden
- Part shade to sun
- Extremely adaptable

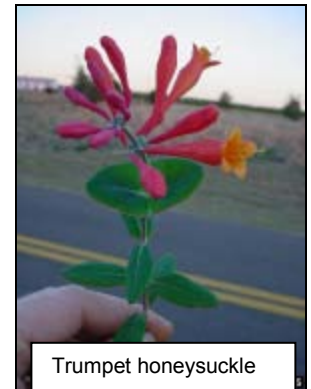
**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Trumpet honeysuckle**

(*L. sempervirens*)

- Native vine
- Smooth stems
- Leaves below flower are perfoliate (fused)
- Flower is deep red on the outside and yellow on the inside
- May hold leaves through winter



Trumpet honeysuckle

**Japanese honeysuckle (*L. japonicum*)**

- Widespread invasive vine
- Lacking perfoliate leaves
- White tubular flowers
- Black berries which grow along the stem

Japanese honeysuckle



**Limber honeysuckle**

(*Lonicera dioica*)

- Native low climbing vine or small shrub, branches arch 3'-10' from plant
- **Rare plant-** requires wet soil (ex. bogs)
- Red, yellow, or purple flowers over perfoliate leaves- blooms May-June, 0.75"
- Red berries
- Flowers & fruits in clumps at the tip of the vine



Limber honeysuckle

**Fragrant Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*)**

**Also called:** Winter honeysuckle, breath of spring, winter jasmine

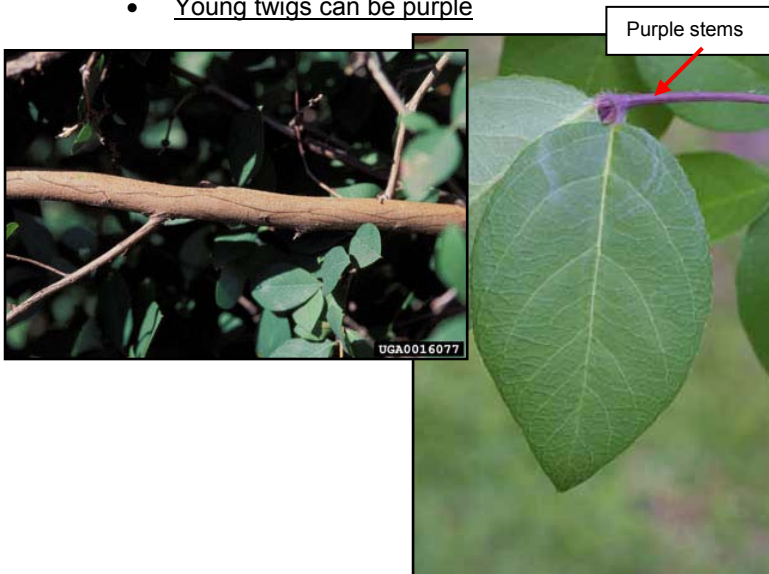
**Family name:** Honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae)

**Native range:** China

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is moderately threatening to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General:**

- Wide-spreading, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub
- Stems are hollow with tan bark
- Grows 6'-8' tall and wide
- Young twigs can be purple



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, simple, toothless and oval-shaped
- Bluish-green in color
- Persist into winter
- 1"-3" long



*L. fragrantissima's* leaves are slightly rounder and more bluish than other bush honeysuckles.

**Flowers:**

- White, tubular, & fragrant (Fruit Loop smell)
- 0.5" long, arranged in pairs
- Extremely abundant
- Blooms January-February



**Fruit:**

- Green in April, ripen to red in the summer (May-June)
- May be hidden by the leaves
- Often occur in conjoined pairs



**Habitat:**

- Open forests, edges, fields, roadsides, and other open upland
- Very cold hardy
- Tolerates wet, dry, sun, shade, low or high pH

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Shrub honeysuckles (*Lonicera sp.*)**

- There are no native shrub honeysuckles in NJ- many species are invasive
- All have opposite, bluish green leaves lacking hair or thorns
- All produce a tubular flower- most are white in color but vary in shade from white to red

**Vining honeysuckles (*Lonicera sp.*)**

- Native & invasive twining vines
- Similar flower & leaf structure
- Native honeysuckle has a solid stem

**Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)**

- Native shrub- similar leaves to shrub honeysuckles
- 2'-4' tall- wide spreading
- Upper branches may be reddish & hairy
- Pale pink or white flowers- shorter tube than honeysuckles
- Red/ pink berries, abundant clusters



**Japanese Crabapple (*Malus toringo*)**

**Family name:** Rose (Rosaceae)

**Native range:** China and Japan

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 - Common and spreading rapidly. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Shade tolerant – can persist, set seed and germinate in woodlands
- Deciduous tree from 15’-25’
- Rounded form



**Leaves:**

- Alternate
- Variable, oval, toothed, often deeply lobed
- 1”-3” long



Variable shaped leaves

**Flowers:**

- Blooms mid-spring
- White, 5 petals



**Fruit:**

- Red, maturing in early autumn (green when immature)
- Round, 0.5” diameter
- Sepals deciduous (bottom of fruit smooth)
- Maturing in autumn



**Look-alikes:**

There are many crabapple species, native and non-native. They are difficult to ID. The presence/persistence or lack/deciduousness of the sepals at the base of the fruit can help in ID.

**Southern crabapple**

(*Malus angustifolia*)

- Native shrub or small tree from 6’-50’
- Common on the coastal plain
- Fruit 1”-1.5”, August-September
- Leaf thick, bluntly toothed
- Nearly evergreen



**Sweet crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)**

- Native, thicket-forming shrub or tree to 25’, N. and central NJ
- Fruit yellowish, 1.25”-2” wide, sepals persistent
- Flowers pink
- Leaves triangular to oval to lance-shaped,
- Leaf bases rounded, tapered tips, often with several short triangular lobes



**Prairie crabapple (*Malus ioensis*) not pictured**

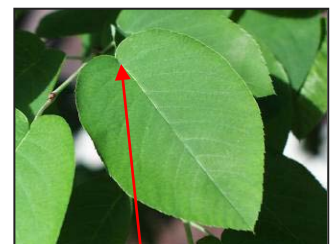
- Native tree to 35’, typically found in central US, but also in NJ piedmont
- 5 petalled white or pink flowers, summer
- Leaf frequently lobed, undersides white-wooly

**Hawthorn species (*Crataegus spp.*) not pictured**

- Native shrub to 15’
- 5 petalled white or pink flowers, summer
- Typically bears long thorns

**Juneberry, serviceberry, shadbush (*Amelanchier spp.*)**

- Native shrub or small tree from 6’ to 50’
- Leaf varies by species, typically tapers gradually at tip and wide and somewhat indented at base
- Fruit red, maturing in June



Many *Amelanchier* species have a heart-shaped leaf base

**European waterclover (*Marsilea quadrifolia*)**

**Also called:** Euporean pepperwort

**Family name:** Water-clover (Marsileaceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated

**General description:**

- Aquatic to amphibious fern
- Creeping rhizomes (root-like pieces)
- No roots



**Leaves:**

- Four-leaf clover-like, smooth edges
- Floats on water
- 1"-2" across



**Flowers:**

- Non-flowering-- reproduces through spores
- Spores are located in hard-shelled cases near the rhizomes



**Habitat:**

- Shallow water of lakes and ponds, quiet sections of rivers and streams, wet shores
- Part-shade or full sun

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**NOTE:** There are other species of water clover native to the US but found west of the Mississippi and in some southern states.

**Banded nardoo or Australian water clover (*Marsilea mutica*)**

- Native to Australia- invasive to southern US
- Aquatic amphibious fern
- Four-leaf clover-like leaves
- Leaves are lighter towards the center and darker towards margins



**Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)**

**Family name:** Grass (Poaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Tall, clump-forming, perennial grass
- 6.5'-10' tall
- Spreads by seed and strong root system
- Widely planted as an ornamental
- Variable—over 50 cultivars available



**Leaves:**

- Long, thin, 3'-6' long sharply pointed tips
- Leaf edges very rough
- Stiff, upright, with tips sometimes curving down
- Often with a silvery white midrib
- Cultivars can vary in leaf color
- Leaves dry and persist through winter



**Flowers:**

- Showy, silvery to pale pink flowers (panicles)
- Fan-shaped, multiple spikes make up each head
- Individual flowers 2.75"-3.5" wide
- Blooms late September-November



**Fruit:**

- Small with a twisted, bristled tip
- Ripening in September- October
- Persisting through winter

**Habitat:**

- Forest edge, meadow, coastal areas, roadside, garden, landscaping
- Tolerates extremes in soil moisture, from dry to moist



**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)**

- Large, clumping native grass to 10' or taller
- Not showy, 1-4 flowering spikes, 4"-9" long
- Seeds large, chunky, like corn kernels
- White midrib
- Swamps, meadows, wet shores



Gamagrass seeds



Gamagrass flowers



Gamagrass white midrib

**Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)**

**Also called:** Watermilfoil

**Family name:** Watermilfoil (Haloragales)

**Native range:** South America

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0- Absent or very rare. It is *highly* threatening to natural plan communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Herbaceous rooted submergent (completely below water) or emergent (piercing through water) plant
- Stems trail along ground or water surface; become erect & leafy at ends
- Stems 5'-6' long



Parrot feather stems emerging from surface of water

**Leaves:**

- Each leaf is pinnately compound (1 center stem with many leaflets)
- Abundant, bright green, feathery
- 4-6 leaves whorled around stem
- Emergent leaves are larger, less divided & greener than submerged leaves
- Submerged leaves: 0.6"-1.5" long
- Emerged leaves: 0.8"-2" long



1 compound leaf of parrot



**Fruit:**

- None, only female plants exist in North America. Reproduction occurs vegetatively.

**Habitat:**

- Lakes, ponds and slow moving streams
- Can form dense mats that can clog waterways

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

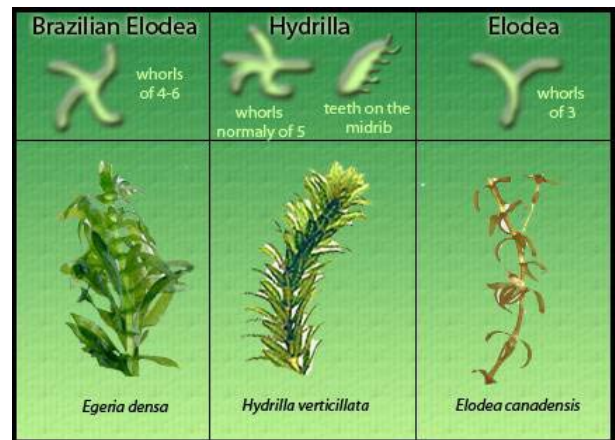
**Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)**

- Widespread invasive- rooted, submerged
- Spreads 3'-10'- may reach up to 33'
- Grayish green leaves, whorls of 3-6, usually 4
- Small, yellow flower- emerges 2" above water
- Fruit is a hard capsule

**Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)**

- Common in lakes & ponds
- Aquatic plant lacking roots (free floating)
- Can dominate a habitat
- Feathery leaves in whorls on the stem-- resembles a raccoon tail
- Plant feels rough to the touch

Feathery leaves of Coontail



**Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)**

- Federal noxious weed- see NJISST fact sheet
- Long (0.4") & thin (~2 mm) leaves- simple
- Sharp spines along leaf edges
- Stems have tubers (bud like pieces)

**Elodea (*Elodea canadensis*)**

- Native, weedy aquatic
- Smooth leaves
- Entirely submerged, only flowers emerge

**Brazilian water-weed (*Egeria densa*)**

- See NJISST fact sheet
- Smooth leaves, 0.5" wide, to 1.25" long

**Flowers:**

- Inconspicuous
- Formed in the axils of emergent leaves
- Blooms in spring (sometimes fall)

**Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)**

**Also called:** water fringe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0

More information to come in 2012!



**Wavy-Leaf Basket Grass (*Oplismenus hirtellus*)**

**Family name:** True grasses (Poaceae)

**Native range:** Southern Europe and Southeast Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. Currently found in Maryland and Virginia. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Perennial grass with shallow roots
- 8-12" tall
- Hair on stems, 0.25" long
- Forms dense mats that cover forest floors. Shades out other plants and creates monocultures.



**Leaves:**

- Flat, lush green, 0.5" wide and 1.5-4" long
- Leaf has a very noticeable wavy formation
- Elongated tips



**Flowers:**

- Blooms mid-August
- Not showy, small, feathery, wispy



**Fruit:**

- Mid-September to November
- Seeds have extended sticky tips that allow them to grab onto passing animals



**Habitat:**

- Shade to partial sun

**Commercial availability:** No

**Look-alikes:**

**Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)**

- Widespread invasive
- Annual grass, well adapted to shade
- Grows up to 2-3" tall
- Smooth, pale green leaf with a shiny midrib
- Hairless stalks



**Virginia cutgrass (*Leersia virginica*)**

- Native perennial grass
- Blooms July to October
- Lacking shiny midrib
- Nearly smooth leaf edge

**Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)**

**Also called:** Japanese creeper or ivy, grape ivy

**Family name:** Grape (Vitaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 - Rare (may be locally common). This plant is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Fast growing perennial, climbing, deciduous vine or groundcover from 30'-50' long
- Climbs with branched tendrils ending in small, sticky discs



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, bright green and shiny
- Leaf shape is variable-- from 3-5 lobes to unlobed leaves
- Toothed
- Leaves on flowering branches are usually palmately compound with 3 leaflets



**Flowers:**

- Small, greenish, in clusters
- Blooms in early summer



**Fruit:**

- Small, dark blue
- Borne on red stems
- 0.25"-0.5" in diameter
- Ripening in September-October



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, field, hedgerow, roadside landscape
- Tolerates salt, pollution, shade, and full sun

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**English ivy (*Hedera helix*)**

- Invasive vine or groundcover
- Evergreen with dark green leaves
- Untoothed leaf edges
- See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



English ivy is a very common landscape plant

**Moonseed (*Menispermum candense*)**

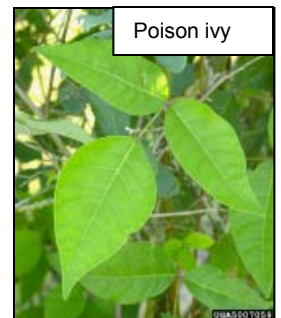
- Native perennial vine-MILDLY TOXIC
- No tendrils on the stem
- 3-7 broad shallow lobes, untoothed
- White pendulous clusters (yellow anthers)
- Black fruits (grape-like)



Moonseed

**Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)**

- Native deciduous vine
- White berries
- Leaves in groups of 3, may have reddish tinge, untoothed
- Hairy stems
- White berries



Poison ivy

**Grape species (*Vitis* sp.)**

- Native perennial woody vines
- Leaves deeply toothed
- Lacks sticky discs on climbing tendrils
- Shredding or peeling bark
- Dark blue or purple berry

Grape leaves can be lobed or unlobed; most often taper to a distinct point.



Virginia Fresh Weed ID Guide

**Beefsteakplant (*Perilla frutescens*)**

**Also called:** Beefsteak mint

**Family name:** Mint (Lamiaceae)

**Native range:** India

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *mildly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

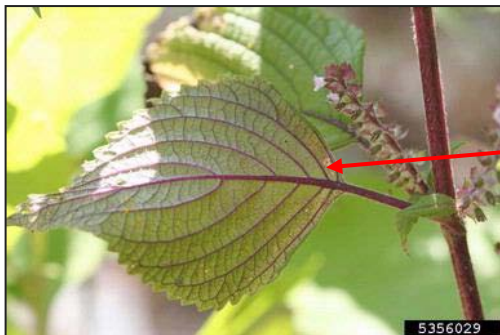
**General description:**

- Annual herb to 0.5'-1.5'
- Dried stalks can persist through winter
- Stems square
- Strongly aromatic, some claim it smells like raw beef



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, broadly oval to oblong
- 3"-6" long, including the long stem
- Toothed
- Veins point towards the leaf tip
- Typically purplish green, especially below
- Leaf base wedge shaped



**Flowers:**

- Small, purplish to white
- Appearing in terminal or axillary spikes
- Irregular flowers
- Paired along the spike
- Surrounded by straight, outwardly spreading bracts—bracts typically not taller than the flower cluster
- Blooms August-September



**Fruit:**

- Tiny, oval, dark seeds contained within hairy leaf-like structures
- Borne on a spike, 2"-5" long



**Habitat:**

- Shaded roadsides, riparian areas, forests, gardens
- Moist ground

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

The strong odor, leaf shape and color distinguish *Perilla frutescens* from members of the mint family and other squared stemmed plants.

**Water-horehound and bugleweed species (*Lycopus* spp.)**

- Native and non-native perennial herbs of moist or wet ground
- Native species can be frequent
- Purplish flowers typically in axillary clusters
- Leaves typically narrower
- Faint odor



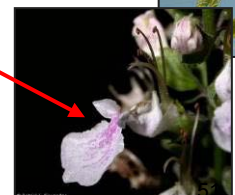
**Horse-balm, stoneroot (*Collinsonia canadensis*)**

- Native woodland wildflower
- Flowers yellow
- Strong odor of citronella



**American germander (*Teucrium canadense*)**

- Native wildflower of thickets and moist ground
- Flowers purplish
- Stamens protrude
- Leaves elongate



**Annual canary grass (*Phalaris canariensis*)**

**Family name:** Grass (Poaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Annual grass to 2'-6.5' tall
- Stem round, hairless
- Lacking a strong, rhizomatous root system
- Ligule (papery sheath at the base of leaf) 0.25" long, round at apex
- Formerly grown for birdseed



**Fruit:**

- Shiny, yellow to brown at maturity



**Habitat:**

- Meadows, cultivated soils, roadsides
- Prefers dry ground



A large, papery sheath that envelopes annual canary grass seed

**Commercial availability:** Not found

**Look-alikes:**

**Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)**

- Perennial grass with extensive rhizomes (difficult to pull)
- A native species, but improved cultivars are very aggressive
- Blooms June-early July
- Invades moist to wet meadows, marshes, riparian areas and roadsides
- Flowers longer and slimmer, 2.75"-10" long



Reed canary grass has taller, narrower flowers



Prominent ligule where the leaf joins the stem

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, 3.5"-10" long, 0.25"-0.75" wide
- Coarsely textured
- Gradually tapering
- Bluish-green

**Flowers:**

- Flowers oval, 0.5"-1.5" long
- Green or purplish, turning tan as seed matures
- Blooms July-August



**Japanese corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*)**

**Family name:** Rue (Rutaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous tree to 50'
- Corky, ridged bark
- Young growth reddish brown
- Inner bark bright yellow
- Has the appearance of an ash tree with grape-like fruits



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, pinnately compound
- 11"-14" long
- 5 to 13 slender leaflets
- Dull green above
- Lighter and smooth to hairy below
- Crushed leaves smell citrus-like, sometimes likened to a disinfectant
- Yellow fall color



**Flowers:**

- Upright clusters of small, yellowish-green (male) and maroon (female) flowers
- 5 to 8 petals and sepals each
- Clustered at branch tips
- Blooms June



**Fruit:**

- Grape-like cluster of round, 0.5" fruits
- Mature to maroon or black in September, persisting into winter
- Fleshy with 5 seeds
- Dark, smooth, shiny



**Habitat:**

- Forests, roadsides
- Shade to part sun

**Commercial availability:** Not found

**Look-alikes:**

Botanists are examining the nomenclature of *Phellodendron*. Japanese corktree (*P. japonicum*), Lavalley corktree (*P. lavalleyi*), Sakhalin corktree (*P. sachalinense*) may all be reclassified as *P. amurense*. Each species demonstrates variability in characteristics formerly considered to be definitive (i.e. leaf hairiness).

**Ash species (*Fraxinus spp.*)**

- Native tree to 100'
- Opposite, compound leaves
- Turning yellow in fall
- Single seed contained in flat, winged samara



**Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)**

- Native tree
- Alternate, compound, serrated leaves
- Green fleshy walnut
- Crushed leaves have citrus fragrance

**Elderberry species (*Sambucus spp.*)**

- Native shrub to 10'
- Leaves opposite, pinnately compound
- Turning yellow in fall
- Flowers white, borne in flat-topped cluster
- Fruits 0.2", red or black



**Mountain ash (*Sorbus spp.*) and Sumac species (*Sumac spp.*)**

- Shrubs to small trees
- Leaves alternate, pinnately compound
- Mountain ash: red-orange fruit
- Sumac: fuzzy reddish flowers



Mountain ash fruit



Sumac flower

**Oriental Photinia (*Photinia villosa*)**

**Family name:** Rose (Rosaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Colonial, fast growing and shade tolerant
- Deciduous shrub or small tree to 20'
- Multiple stems or single trunk
- Smooth, gray bark



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, oval-shaped, widening at the tip, finely toothed
- Typically stemless
- Smooth above, long-haired beneath
- Turn red-orange to golden in autumn



**Habitat:**

- Forests, floodplains, landscaping
- Full or partial shade

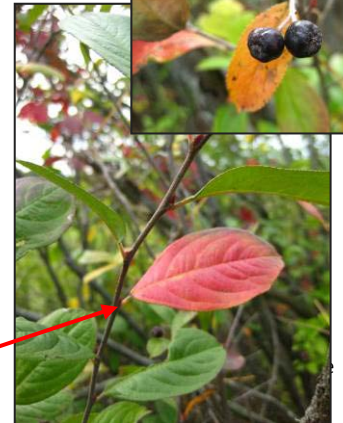
**Commercial availability:** Not found currently, but historically available

**Look-alikes:**

**Red chokeberry (*Photinia arbutifolia*)**

**Black chokeberry (*Photinia melanocarpa*)**

- Native shrubs up to 9'
- Clusters of round, red (*P. arbutifolia*) to purple-black fruit (*P. melanocarpa*), maturing in autumn
- Foliage turns red in fall
- Leaves similar shape and size to Oriental photinia, but chokeberries have a short stem, 0.25" long



**Juneberry, serviceberry, shadbush (*Amelanchier* spp.)**

- Native shrubs or small trees from 6' to 50'
- Forests, thickets, roadsides
- 5 petalled white flowers, April-May
- Leaf varies by species, typically tapers gradually at tip and wide and somewhat indented at base
- Fruit red, maturing in June

Many *Amelanchier* species have a heart-shaped leaf base



*Amelanchier* sp. flowers appear April-May, often before or during leaf out

**Flowers:**

- White, 5 petals
- Blooms late May-June



**Fruit:**

- Green maturing to red in early autumn
- Round, 0.5" wide or smaller
- 1-4 seeds in each fruit

**Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)**

**Family name:** Arum (Araceae)

**Native range:** Africa or South America

**NJ Status:** Emergent stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *mildly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Free-floating, perennial aquatic plant
- Colonial
- Long feathery roots, creates large dense mats
- Looks like a floating open head of lettuce
- Can grow up to 12” wide
- Dies off in cold weather, not tolerant of autumn and winter conditions in NJ



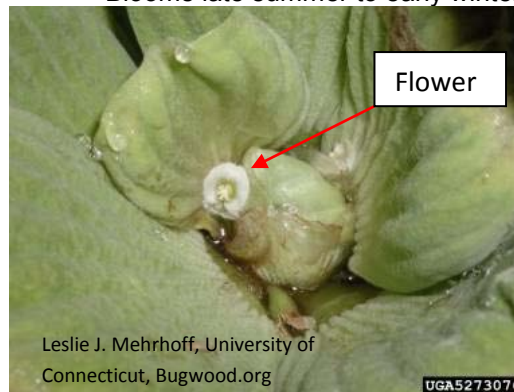
**Leaves:**

- Velvety, grey-green leaves
- Prominent parallel veins
- Leaves are large (4-6” wide), thick, and spongy



**Flowers:**

- Inconspicuous and hidden in leaves, yellow and short-stalked
- Blooms late summer to early winter



**Fruit:**

- Produces small green berries
- Can reproduce by seed or runners

**Habitat:**

- Lakes, ponds, slow moving water ways
- Sun to partial shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Longleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*)**

- Native perennial aquatic plant
- Emergent aquatic plant, has roots in soil and has leaves above and below the water surface
- Submerged leaves are long and thin and grow up to 8” long. Emergent leaves are oval shaped and grow up to 5” long. Emergent leaves die often, will look brown and unhealthy.
- Flowers are on a 6” long spikes, reddish brown, and not showy



**Kiss me over the garden gate (*Polygonum orientale*)**

**Also called:** Prince's feather

**Family name:** Polygonum (*Polygonaceae*)

**Native range:** India

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Annual with thick taproot
- Tall, 6'-7'
- Stems erect, covered in short hairs
- Stems have a thin, bristled sheath (ocreae) covering joints along the stem



**Leaves:**

- Lance-shaped to broadly lance-shaped
- Larger leaves 6" wide by 10" long

**Flowers:**

- Small, pink to deep magenta
- Clustered in a terminal spike, 3"-4" long
- Stiff to somewhat drooping
- Blooms June-October



**Fruit:**

- Small, shiny black seed
- Readily self-sows



Sheath covering joints. Bristles appear at the top of the sheath.

**Habitat:**

- Meadow, roadside, landscaping, garden
- Sun to part sun, average moisture

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Lady's thumb, heart's ease (*Persicaria maculosa*)**

- Annual, 1'-2' tall
- Ubiquitous weed of roadsides, gardens, weedy areas, moist areas
- Flowers small, pink to deep magenta
- Leaves have a dark green mark along the midrib



*Persicaria maculosa* growing from sidewalk crack .

**Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)**

**Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*)**

- Invasive perennial
- Leaves oval and occasionally heart-shaped
- White flowers long stems
- Riparian areas, roadsides, gardens
- Prefers moist areas
- See NJISST fact sheet for more on *P. sachalinense*



Left to right:  
Giant knotweed  
Bohemian knotweed  
Japanese knotweed

**Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)**

**Also called:** Mile-a-minute knotweed, Asiatic tearthumb, Devil's tail, *Persicaria perfoliata*

**Family name:** Knotweed (Polygonaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 - Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General Description:**

- Herbaceous, annual, climbing vine up to 23' long
- Grows up to 6" per day
- Stems, leaf stalks, and veins are covered in recurved prickles
- Stems are delicate and highly branched; green to reddish-green in color
- Dead, brown stems can persist through winter



Mile-a-minute dies at the first frost each year, leaving behind dried stems. It regrows each spring from seed.

UGA1149039

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, toothless, triangular, 0.75-3" wide
- Saucer-shaped leaf surrounds the stem at base of leaf stem and base of flower
- Barbed on the underside

Saucer shaped leaf



UGA5273095

Young growth has arrow-like appearance



**Flowers:**

- Small, white, inconspicuous
- Borne on short stalks off of saucer-shaped leaves
- Blooms late spring-early summer

**Fruit:**

- Produced July-November
- Small, round, 0.2" in diameter
- Borne in clusters
- Immature fruit is green; turns blue when mature
- Each fruit contains a shiny, black or reddish seed (2 mm wide)
- Produces fruit continuously until the first frost, when the plant begins to die back



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, meadow, roadside, yard

**Commercial Availability:**  
Not found

**Look-alikes:**

**Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)**

- Invasive vine
- Speckled purple to blue fruits
- Leaf is lobed & serrated, unlike mile-a-minute



Porcelainberry's leaf is very different from mile-a-minute

**Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*)**

- Native annual vine, climbing to 3'
- Each leaf has 3 leaflets- may appear somewhat triangular, sharply point tip
- Flowers are pink-white, 3/8"

Hog-peanut



**Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*)**

**Family name:** Polygonum (*Polygonaceae*)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Perennial, bamboo-like shrub
- Over 12' tall
- Stems hollow and jointed with a zig-zag pattern
- Stems light green with reddish joints



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, heart-shaped
- Toothless
- Often over 1' long
- Stems jointed with a zig-zag pattern



**Flowers:**

- Greenish to creamy white
- Individual flowers small
- Borne on short shoots in leaf axils
- Blooms July-October



**Fruit:**

- Contained within a papery, 3-sided sheath



**Habitat:**

- Meadow, roadside, thicket, garden
- Prefers drier soils

**Commercial availability:** Not found

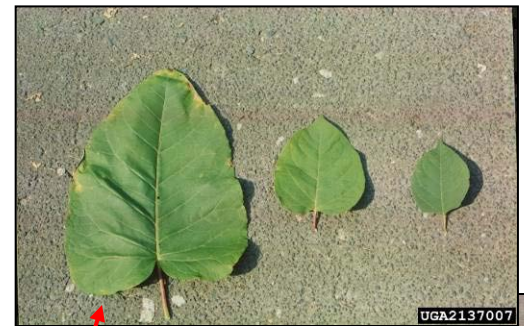
**Look-alikes:**

**Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)**

- Invasive perennial
- Leaves oval and occasionally heart-shaped, 3"-6" long and 2"-5" wide
- Showier flower clusters than giant knotweed
- Riparian areas, roadsides, gardens
- Prefers moist areas

**Bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum x bohemicum*)**

- Invasive perennial, hybrid between giant and Japanese knotweed
- No known populations in NJ
- Leaves oval to heart-shaped
- Flowers about the same length as leaves
- Riparian areas, roadsides, gardens
- Prefers moist areas



Left to right:  
Giant knotweed  
Bohemian knotweed  
Japanese knotweed  
Leaves and flowers

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0

More information to come in 2012!



**Kudzu (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*)**

**Family name:** Pea (Fabaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Climbing or trailing semi-woody perennial vine
- Up to 100' long
- Stems up to 2" thick
- Fleshy tap root up to 7" wide and 9' deep, weighing 400 lbs.



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, compound
- 3 oval leaflets up to 4" wide
- Untoothed
- Leaflet shape variable—can be tear drop shaped or lobed
- Leaf edges hairy

Leaflets can be deeply lobed



**Flowers:**

- Fragrant, pea-like, purple
- Borne in long clusters
- Blooms August-early September



**Fruit:**

- Brown, hairy, flattened seed pods about 8" long
- Each pod contains 3 to 10 hard seeds.
- Ripening in September to October

Kudzu seed pods are hairy



Millions of acres are covered by kudzu in the southeast



**Habitat:**

- Forest edge, meadow, abandoned fields, roadside, dams
- Fast growing
- Once planted for erosion control

**Commercial availability:** Not found, Federal Noxious Weed

**Look-alikes:**

There are numerous native climbing pea-like vines, but none are as vigorous or large as kudzu.

**Trailing wild bean (*Strophostyles helvola*)**

- Annual to 4' tall
- Flowers less showy, greenish-purple to pink
- Leaves oval, sometimes with concave edges, like kudzu
- Fruits bean-like, 1.5"-4" long
- Damp thickets and shores



Trailing wild beans, and other native pea-like species, grow less vigorously than kudzu

## Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Family name: Rose (Roseaceae)

Native range: Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 – Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate newly emerging occurrences only.

### General description:

- Deciduous tree to 45' tall
- Pyramidal to "lollipop" form
- Young bark smooth with horizontal lenticels
- Older bark shows vertical fissures
- Large terminal buds, 0.5" long and extremely hairy
- Branches tend to split from tree
- Numerous cultivars



Leaves beginning to appear during bloom

### Leaves:

- Alternate, oval, finely toothed
- Glossy, leathery, dark green, wavy edge
- 2"-3" long and almost as wide
- Stem 2" long
- Turning red, purple and orange in fall



### Flowers:

- White with 5 petals, about 0.75" wide
- Showy clusters 3" in diameter
- Peak blooms late March through April before leaf out
- Slightly malodorous



### Fruit:

- Round, 0.5" across
- Olive-brown to tan with reddish to tan specks
- Ripening in September-October



Oversized bud



Young bark

Sharp-tipped spurs along branches. Found on Callery pear and crabapple species (*Malus spp.*)



### Habitat:

- Meadow, roadside, forest edge, garden, landscaping
- Widely planted as an ornamental

**Commercial availability:** Yes

### Look-alikes:

**Cultivated apple (*Malus spp.*) and pear (*Pyrus spp.*)** are similar to Callery pear, but can be differentiated by their fruits

Crabapple fruits are not speckled



**Buckthorn (*Rhamnus spp.*)**

**Species names:**

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)  
 NOTE: species may hybridize

**Family name:** Buckthorn (Rhamnaceae)

**Habitat:**

- Forest, open forest, meadow, roadside, landscaping

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)**

**Also called:** European buckthorn

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2- Uncommon (may be regionally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Small deciduous tree/shrub, to 20'
- Smooth branches, often end in spines
- Especially aggressive in wet soils

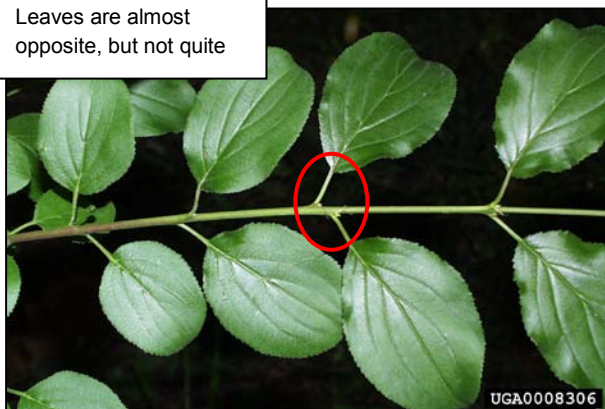


Branches often end in spines.

**Leaves:**

- Slightly off-opposite leaves
- Finely toothed, oval/elliptical, hairless
- Shiny and dark green above-- may stand out from other vegetation
- Leaves remain green late into the fall, after most other species have dropped
- 3-4 distinct up-curved leaf veins

Leaves are almost opposite, but not quite



**Flowers:**

- Bloom May-June as leaves appear
- Small, yellow-green, grow near leaf axils
- Blooms in clusters of 2-6



Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org 5399724

**Fruit:**

- August- September
- Round, dark purple/black berry in leaf axils (0.25")
- Tree appears heavy with berries



5341026

**Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)**

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging State 0- Absent or rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous tree, to 30'
- Spines on twigs and branches



4-6 veins on each leaf

©2009 Jeffrey Pippen

**Buckthorn (*Rhamnus spp.*)**

**Leaves:**

- Slightly off-opposite leaves
- Finely toothed, oval/elliptical, hairless
- 4-6 distinct up-curved leaf veins

**Flowers:**

- Blooms May-June in clusters of 1-3
- Numerous, small, yellow-green



©2009 Will Cook

**Fruit:**

- July-October
- Copious round, dark purple/black berry in leaf axils (0.25")

**Look-alikes:**

**Dogwood (*Cornus sp.*)**

- Native understory tree
- Similar leaf veining pattern
- Opposite leaves without serrated edge
- Red berries
- Showy white flowers with 4 petals
- Dogwoods lack spines on their bark and twigs



Dogwood leaves have up-curved veins with smooth leaf edges

**Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)**

- Invasive tree
- No spine
- May also appear sub-opposite
- Untoothed leaves, hairy beneath
- Note: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



Robert H. Mohlenbrock

**Alder buckthorn (*R. alnifolia*)**

- Native shrub, max 3'
- Leaves with 6-7 pairs of veins



**Blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)**

- Native shrub/small tree
- Opposite, finely toothed leaves with up-curved veins
- Leaf stem often has reddish tinge
- Blue berries occur in clusters
- Showy white flowers



Blackhaw berries occur in clusters with reddish stems



(c) 2004 Steven J. Baskauf

**Jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*)**

**Family name:** Rose (*Rosaceae*)

**Native range:** Japan

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 - Uncommon (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub
- Clumping, multi-stemmed form
- Grows to a height of 6' and width of 7'

**Leaves:**

- Opposite and simple, 2.5"-4" long
- Bright green
- Doubly toothed, with a rough appearance
- Ribbed veins with a long pointed tip
- Persist into fall- obvious lime green color



**Flowers:**

- Terminal clusters
- White, large four-petaled flowers
- 4 large toothed sepals
- Blooms April-early June



**Fruit:**

- Cluster of four black bead-like fruits
- Single-seeded fruits
- Immature fruits are dark, reddish orange
- Appearing mid-summer; ripening September-December



Young fruit



Mature fruit

**Habitat:**

- Meadows, roadsides, forest, edges, landscape
- Prefers full sun but can grow in full shade.
- Tolerates a wide range of soils and conditions, including salt and pollution

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**  
**Linden viburnum**  
(*Viburnum dilatatum*)

- Invasive shrub/ small tree
- Shallowly toothed leaves
- Fuzzy leaves & stems
- Bright red berries
- See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



Linden viburnum

**Arrowwood** (*Viburnum dentatum*)

- Native woodland shrub
- Leaves more deeply toothed
- Round, dark blue fruits- occurring in clusters



Arrowwood

**Garden red currant (*Ribes rubrum*)**

**Family name:** Gooseberry (Grossulariaceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

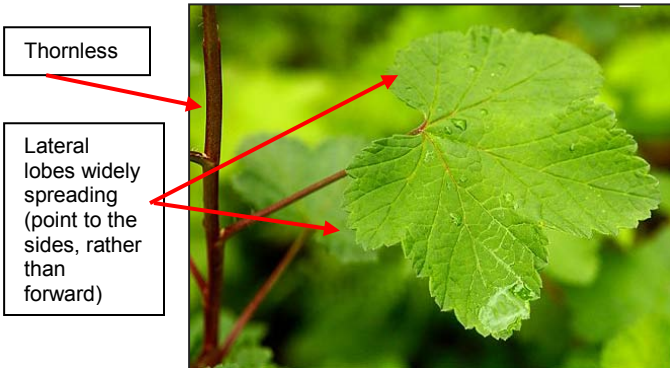
**General description:**



- Shade tolerant, deciduous shrub
- Stems erect
- Thornless

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, crowded on short branches
- Lateral lobes widely spreading
- Without resin glands below



**Flowers:**

- Yellow-green, 5-parted with a short stem
- Borne in hanging racemes (unbranched grouping of flowers)
- Late April-May



**Fruit:**

- Smooth, red
- Numerous seeds
- Edible, ripening in July



**Habitat:**

- Moist forests, thickets, landscaping
- Sun to partial shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

Other thornless *Ribes* species with smooth fruits, including:

**Wild black currant (*Ribes americanum*)**

- Native to moist forests, marshes, thickets
- Leaves have resinous glands below
- Fruit black



**Buffalo currant (*Ribes odoratum*)**

- Native to Great Plains, cultivated and escaped
- Fruit black
- Flowers bright yellow



**Wild red currant (*Ribes triste*)**

- Rare species—consult field guide
- This species is tracked by NJDEP and is protected by the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act
- Native to wet, rocky forests, swamps, cliffs
- Stems often not upright, straggling
- Flower stalks glandular
- Fruit red
- Lateral lobes directed forward



Lateral lobes point forward

**Bristly locust (*Robinia hispida*)**

**Also called:** Standing sweet pea

**Family name:** Pea (Fabaceae)

**Native range:** Southeast US

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately* threatening to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub, to 8'
- Multi-stemmed and erect
- Stems are stiff and densely bristly
- Caution: All parts of this plant are at least mildly poisonous



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, pinnately compound with 7-19 leaflets
- Densely hairy
- Smooth, untoothed edges
- Each leaflet 1.5"-2" long
- Pair of long spines are found at the base of most leaves

**Flowers:**

- Clustered in the leaf axils
- Dark or light pink
- 2 lips, upper lip is shorter than lower (pea-like flower)
- Blooms May-June



**Fruit:**

- Thin seed pods, 2"-4" long
- Densely covered in bristly hairs



**Habitat:**

- Disturbed areas such as old fields, roadsides
- Full sun
- Planted for erosion control

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)**

- Native to North America
- Deciduous tree, to 80'
- Distinctive brown, leathery pod
- Much larger thorns on trunk and branches
- Small inconspicuous whitish green flowers



Honey locust flower and thorn (above), seed pod (below)



**Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)**

- Invasive tree, to 100' (native to Southeast US)
- Bark has flat-topped ridges
- Drooping white flower clusters
- Long, paired thorns



Black & honey locust are NOT BRISTLY

**Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)**

**Family name:** Rosaceae (Rose)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 - Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately* threatening to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous perennial shrub, to 10'
- Strong arching branches
- Stout flattened and curved thorns arranged randomly



**Leaves:**

- Alternate pinnately divided with 5-7 leaflets
- Leaflets elliptical, pointed and toothed
- Stipules are long, narrow and unfringed



Narrow, unfringed stipules

**Flowers:**

- Few and solitary; located at the end of the branch
- Pink to white with a yellow center
- 5 petals
- Blooms May-July



**Fruit:**

- Bright red berries, ~0.8" long



**Habitat:**

- Open forest, edge, successional fields, landscape
- Widely tolerant

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

Many species of rose are present in our area and can be differentiated by shape of thorns and stipules.

**NOTE:** If thorns are oriented in opposite pairs, it is likely a native (*R. carolina, palustris* or *virginiana*).

**Rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*)-** see NJISST fact sheet

**Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*)**

- NJ native rose, 6'-8' tall, wet sites
- Very narrow stipules at leaf base
- Stout, hooked thorns- paired



**Carolina or pasture rose (*Rosa carolina*)**

- NJ native shrub
- Straight thorns near the leaf nodes- paired
- Narrow stipules at leaf base

**Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)**

- NJ native shrub
- Stout, curved thorns- paired
- Very wide stipules at leaf base

**Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)**

- Widespread, invasive shrub
- Hooked thorns
- Fringed stipules at base of leaf
- Small white flowers



**Rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*)**

**Also called:** Japanese rose, saltspray rose

**Family name:** Rose (Rosaceae)

**Native range:** China, Korea, Japan

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub 4'-6'
- Erect green stems
- Multi-stemmed
- Stems densely covered with thin, straight thorns

**Flowers:**

- White to pink, 2"-3" across
- 5 petals
- Blooms June-August



**Fruit:**

- Shiny, deep red "hip"
- 1" diameter
- Long persistent sepals
- Ripens in August

**Habitat:**

- Coastal, sandy areas, disturbed areas
- Full sun

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

Many species of rose are present in our area and can be differentiated by shape of thorns and stipules.

**NOTE:** If thorns are oriented in opposite pairs, it is likely a native (*R. carolina*, *palustris* or *virginiana*).

**Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)-** see NJISST fact sheet

**Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*)**

- NJ native, pink flowers
- Straight thorns near the leaf nodes
- Narrow stipules

**Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)**

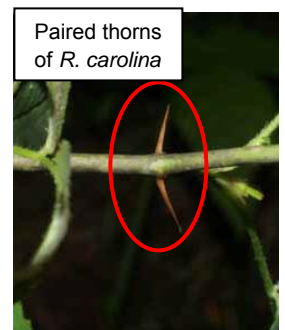
- NJ native
- Stout, curved thorns (paired)
- Very wide stipules

**Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*)**

- NJ native, 8' tall, wet sites
- Very narrow stipules
- Covered in dense thorns
- Stout, hooked thorns- thorns thin out further up the stem

**Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)**

- Widespread, invasive shrub
- Hooked thorns, fringed stipules
- Small white flowers



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, pinnately compound
- Rounded with toothed edges
- 5-9 leaflets on each leaf
- Dark green & lustrous- leathery
- Wrinkled upper surface, fuzzy underside
- Wide, obvious stipule at leaf base



**Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)**

**Also called:** Armenian blackberry, *Rubus discolor*

**Family name:** Rose (Rosaceae)

**Native range:** Southwest Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous to evergreen, to 13'
- Spreading shrub, grows in dense thickets
- Reddish stems with heavy, reddish, recurved thorns
- Thorns are well-spaced with a wide base
- Stems erect when young, arch to the ground as they age



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, palmately compound
- Main stems have 5 leaflets- 2.5"-7.9" long; side shoots bear smaller leaves with 3 leaflets
- Dark green above, whitish below
- Rounded to oblong, sharply toothed leaflets
- Curved thorns on leaf stem & midrib



5 large leaflets on main stems; 3 small leaflets on side shoots



**Flowers:**

- Showy, ~1" across
- White to pink with 5 petals
- Born in clusters of 3-20
- Blooms late spring-early summer



**Fruit:**

- Juicy black berry, ~1" long
- Fruit is an aggregate (many tiny fruits)
- Adheres to central core when removed
- Berry is red when it is immature
- Typically ripens late compared with native blackberries (late summer to fall)

**Habitat:**

- Disturbed areas such as fields, roadsides, riparian areas
- Prefers moist soils, shade intolerant

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)**

**NOTE: Himalayan and native blackberries are difficult to distinguish.**

- Native shrub, to 8'
- Leaves have 5 leaflets- dark green above and pale below, 3"-5" long, less sharply toothed
- Straight thorns on stem, hooked prickles on leaf stem
- Black berry, ~1" long
- Berry adheres to central core when removed
- Reddish brown stems that darken with age, large hooked thorns



*R. allegheniensis* has a deeply grooved stem

**Black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)**

- Native shrub, 6'-9'
- Black berry is 0.5"
- Berry separates from central core
- Less showy flower
- Reddish stems with a white bloom
- Leaves have 5 leaflets; flowering stems have 3 leaflets

*R. occidentalis* has smaller flowers & berries



**Cutleaf Blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*)**

**Also called:** Evergreen blackberry

**Family name:** Rose (Rosaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Deciduous to evergreen
- Spreading shrub that grows in dense thickets
- 2'-6' tall
- Recurved thorns cover stem
- Prickly, reddish stems
- Stems erect when young, arch to the ground as they age



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, compound leaves- may persist through winter
- Each with 3-5 leaflets, deeply divided with jagged thorny tips
- Green above, pale and hairy beneath
- Curved thorns on leaf stem



**Flowers:**

- Showy
- White to pink with 5 petals
- Borne in clusters
- Blooms June-early August



**Fruit:**

- Juicy black berry, ~1" long
- Fruit is an aggregate (many tiny fruits)
- Adheres to central core when removed
- Berry is red when immature



**Habitat:**

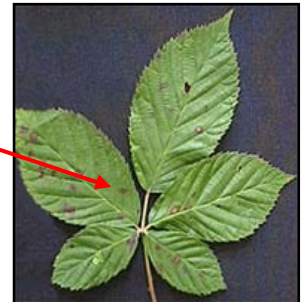
- Edges and clearings
- Requires full sun and well drained soil

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Blackberry & Raspberry (*Rubus* sp.)**  
Other *Rubus* have thorns and similar fruits. *R. laciniatus* is the only local *Rubus* with deeply divided leaves.

- R. allegheniensis*- blackberry
- R. odoratus*- flowering raspberry
- R. phoenic*- wineberry (invasive)
- R. idaeus*- red raspberry
- R. occidentalis*- black raspberry



**Rose (*Rosa* sp.)**

- Thorny shrubs, native or invasive
- Generally with smaller leaves than *Rubus*
- Fruit is a red drupe (smooth with 1 hard enclosed seed)



## Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonicas*)

**Other names:** Pink chimes

**Family name:** Silver bells (Styracaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

### General description:

- Deciduous flowering tree
- 20-30' tall, as wide as it is tall
- Single trunked
- Mature bark is grey brown with orange fissures



### Fruit:

- Fruit is a small, dry, round structure that hangs from the tree.
- Light whitish green coloring



### Leaves:

- Simple and alternate
- 1 to 4" long
- Smooth edges
- Dark lush green in the summer yellow to reddish yellow in the fall



### Flowers:

- Blooms from end of May into June
- Flower are white or light pink and hang down, bell shaped, 0.75" wide
- Less than an inch long
- 5 petals with yellow stamen
- Clusters of 3 to 6

**Habitat:** Roadside, garden, landscaping, forest edge

**Commercial availability:** Yes

### Look-alikes:

#### **Stewartia** (*Stewartia* spp.)

- Non-native, similar flowers and leaves to the Japanese Snowbell
- Multi-stemmed
- Smooth orange to yellow-brown bark
- Blooms June to August



#### **American snowbell** (*Styrax americanus*)

- Non-native
- Small tree or shrub reaching 10-15' tall
- Smooth, thin, dark grey-brown bark, no orange fissures



**Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)**

**Family name:** Water chestnut (Trapaceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 – Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate newly emerging occurrences only.

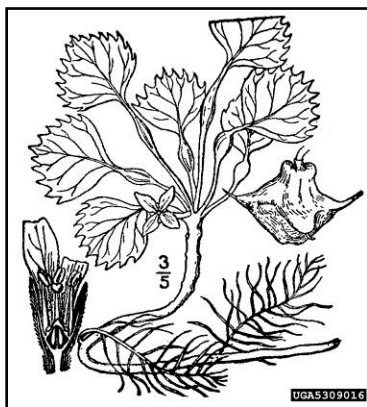
**General description:**

- Rooted aquatic
- Annual—after frost plants die
- Mat-forming
- Easily hand-pulled
- Displays explosive growth



**Leaves:**

- Floating rosette of triangular, sharply toothed leaves, 0.75"-1.5" long
- Stems up to 6" long with swollen portions that give buoyancy
- Prominently veined with short, stiff hairs below
- Feathery submerged leaves up to 6" long, opposite or nearly so



Enlarged stems give buoyancy



**Flowers:**

- Tiny, white, 4 petals
- Appear in center of the rosette
- Blooms from July until a killing frost



**Fruit:**

- Submerged, 1" wide nut-like structures with 4 barbed spines
- Ripening in August until a killing frost
- Viable for up to 12 years
- Spines can pierce paws of pets and wildlife, as well as the feet of swimmers
- Dispersed by water current, boats, and wildlife



- Current year's seeds- green and attached to underside of plant
- Past year's seeds (not viable)- black and floating



**Habitat:**

- Ponds, lakes, rivers, streams
- Most often found in slow-moving, nutrient rich waters
- Decay of plant material can deplete oxygen for fish and other organisms

**Commercial availability:** Not found

**Look-alikes:** None

**Chinese, Siberian and English Elms (*Ulmus spp.*)**

**Family name:** Ulmaceae (Elm)

**General description:**

Chinese, Siberian and English elms are all deciduous trees. ID can be difficult among them and the native elms. All elms share the following characteristics:

**Leaves:**

- Alternate & simple, often double-toothed
- Usually asymmetrical at the base
- Dark green

**Flowers:**

- Inconspicuous, lacking petals, often greenish

**Fruit:**

- Smooth, flattened, round samara

**Habitat:**

- Very adaptable

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)**

**Also called:** Lacebark elm, drake elm

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- 30'-60' tall, near evergreen in mild climates
- Slender trunk & crown
- Bark is **exfoliating and flakey** (combinations of gray, green, orange, tan & red-brown)

**Leaves:**

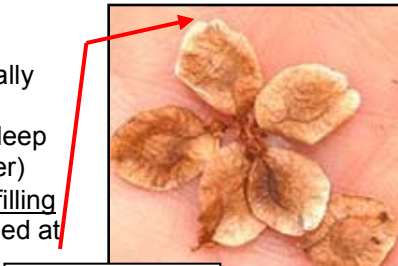
- **Small**, elliptical, 0.8"-2" long, 0.5"-1" wide
- **Unequal leaf base** (bottom of leaf does not touch stem in same place)
- Single-toothed (some double-toothed)

**Flowers:**

- Small, tight green clusters within leaf axils
- **Blooms August-September (after leaf out)**

**Fruit:**

- Samaras, initially lime green, mature into a deep russet (October)
- **Seeds nearly filling samara**, notched at the tip



Chinese elm

**Habitat:**

- Meadow, prairie, landscaping
- Full to partial sun, well drained



**Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*)**

**Also called:** Chinese elm, dwarf elm

**Native range:** China and Siberia

**NJ Status:** Emerging stage 2 - Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- 50'-70' tall
- Branches hang down loosely; tend to break off with high wind
- Shallow furrows in bark
- Slender branches, open & rounded crown
- Twigs nearly hairless, small dark **round bud**

**Leaves:**

- **Small**, 1"-2.5" long, 0.5"-1.25" wide
- Single-toothed
- **Leaf base is equal** forming a V shape
- yellowish-brown in fall

**Flowers:**

- **Blooms March-April (before leaf out)**
- Small pale green clusters (stemless, not pendulous)

**Fruit:**

- Pale green turning brown
- Round, broadly winged
- Deeply notched at tip

**Habitat:**

- Dry-moist prairies, stream banks, grasslands, roadsides, landscaping



Equal leaf base of Siberian elm



Siberian elm

Chinese & Siberian elm both have leaves smaller (<3") than the other elms but Chinese elm flowers & fruits in the fall.

Chinese, Siberian and English Elms (*Ulmus spp.*)

**English elm (*Ulmus procera*)**

Also called: Cork Elm

Native range: Europe

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0 –Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Large tree, to 130'
- Bark is grayish-brown & flaking
- Old growth has **corky ridges**
- Twigs reddish-brown
- Buds egg-shaped

**Leaves:**

- May be **nearly rounded**
- **Large**, 3"-5" long, 1"-3" wide, double-toothed
- Rough above, downy beneath
- Asymmetrical at base
- Woolly tufts in vein axils

**Flowers:**

- **Blooms February-March, before leaf out**
- **Reddish-purple**, clusters borne on shoots

**Fruit:**

- Light brown (reddish in area covering seed)
- Round & shallowly notched
- Ripen May-June

**Habitat:**

- Meadow, forest, landscaping
- Full to partial sun, well drained



English elm



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Reddish-purple flowers of English elm

© R.A. Seelig

**American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)**

- Native, deciduous tree, 60'-80' tall
- "V"-shaped form, strongly arched above, numerous slender branches
- **Leaves 3"-5" long, 1"-3" wide**, double-toothed
- Unequal heart-shaped leaf base
- Flowers in early spring before leaf out
- Bark is **not flakey**
- Tip of bud is pointed
- Tufts of hair in axils of leaf veins
- Yellow cream samaras, narrowly winged, deeply notched, **hairy edges**, 0.5" wide
- Flowers small, in drooping clusters



American elm

**Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*)**

- Native, deciduous tree, to 65'
- **Leaves 4-8"**, double-toothed, thick, stiff & sandpapery
- Unequal heart-shaped leaf base
- Winter buds densely covered with **red-brown hairs**
- Young branches are hairy
- Papery samara, **0.75"-1" wide**
- "Slippery" inner bark
- Deeply furrowed bark



Slippery elm

**Linden viburnum (*Viburnum dilatatum*)**

**Family name:** Adoxa (Adoxaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 - Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub or small tree, 8'-10'
- Leaves/young stems often covered in soft hairs

**Leaves:**

- Opposite, shallowly toothed
- Dark green, covered in soft hairs
- Leaf shape is HIGHLY VARIABLE from nearly round to nearly straplike on the same plant
- Leaves drop later in the fall- yellow fall color
- 2 to 4 circular glands at base of leaf, best seen from the underside



**Flowers:**

- Numerous creamy white flowers in flattened clusters
- Blooms May-early June



**Fruit:**

- Small, bright red berries, flattened spheres
- Borne in flat-topped clusters
- Reddish-green in summer
- Mature into bright red in September, persist into December



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edges, hedgerow, landscape
- Shade tolerant
- Fast growing, forms dense thickets

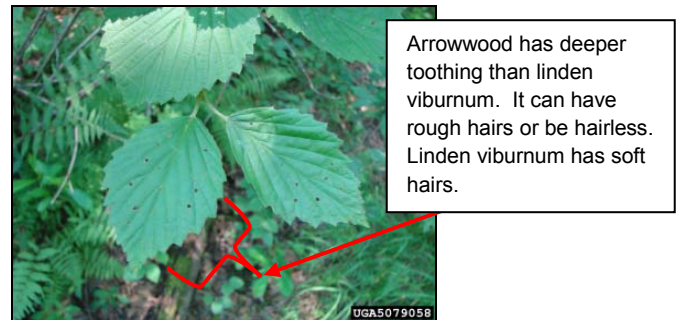
**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

The *Viburnum* species are best differentiated by leaf shape, fruit color, buds, and flower and fruit structure.

**Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)**

- Native woodland shrub, prefers moist soil
- Leaves more deeply toothed, rounder shape
- Round, dark purple fruits
- Leaves/stems on mature shrubs can be rough hairy to hairless
- Blooms May-June
- NOTE: Seedling arrowwood and linden viburnum are often indistinguishable.



For additional look-alikes, see NJISST fact sheets for: **wayfaring tree** (*V. lantana*), **doublefile viburnum** (*V. plicatum*), **tea viburnum** (*V. setigerum*), and **Siebold's viburnum** (*V. sieboldii*).

**Wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*)**

**Family name:** Adoxa (Adoxaceae)

**Native range:** China

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub or small tree to 20'
- Can be multistemmed
- Bark smooth, brown with orange streaks
- Buds fuzzy, naked (no scales enclosing bud)
- Several cultivars are available, including ones with variegated foliage



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, toothed
- Oval to oblong-ovate
- 2"-5" long
- Hairy beneath, wrinkled above
- Leathery, dark gray-green



**Flowers:**

- Small, white, 5-parted with yellow stamens
- Borne in flat clusters, 3"-5" wide
- Blooms in late May



Immature fruits

**Fruit:**

- Maturing from red to blue-black in August-September
- Borne in flat clusters, 3"-5" across
- Fruit 0.3" diameter



**Habitat:**

- Moist forests, thickets, landscaping
- Sun to shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

The *Viburnum* species are best differentiated by leaf shape, fruit color, buds, and flower and fruit structure.

**Leatherleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*)**

- Non-native, invasive potential is currently unknown
- Evergreen leathery leaves with deeply inset veins
- Leaves elongate



For additional look-alikes, see NJISST fact sheets for: **linden viburnum** (*V. dilatatum*), **doublelife viburnum** (*V. plicatum*), **tea viburnum** (*V. setigerum*), and **Siebold's viburnum** (*V. sieboldii*).

**Doublefile viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum*)**

**Also called:** Japanese snowball viburnum

**Family name:** Adoxa (Adoxaceae)

**Native range:** China and Japan

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous shrub or small tree to 15'
- Can be multistemmed
- Bark smooth, gray-brown with orange lenticels
- Buds fuzzy, naked (no scales enclosing bud)
- Young stems hairy
- Several cultivars are available, including *Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum*; varying slightly in form and flowering period



Flowers line upper side of branches; appear as lines.

**Fruit:**

- Maturing from red to blue-black in August-September
- Borne in flat clusters



**Habitat:**

- Forests and landscaping
- Sun to shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes



*Viburnum plicatum* autumn foliage



UGA5147076

**Leaves:**

- Opposite, toothed
- Rounded shape with pointed tip
- 2" to 4" long, up to 2" wide
- Soft hairs beneath
- Dark green, turning reddish-purple



Immature flowers

**Look-alikes:**

The *Viburnum* species are best differentiated by leaf shape, fruit color, buds, and flower and fruit structure.

**Linden viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum*)**

- Invasive shrub
- White clusters of flowers, no showy parts
- Yellow fall color
- See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant

For additional look-alikes, see NJISST fact sheets for: **linden viburnum** (*V. dilatatum*), **wayfaring tree** (*V. lantana*), **tea viburnum** (*V. setigerum*), and **Siebold's viburnum** (*V. sieboldii*).

**Flowers:**

- White, grow vertically off branches
- Small, fertile flowers surrounded by showy infertile flowers
- Cultivars can be variable (see right)
- Scentless
- Blooms in May to June

Fertile flowers  
Infertile flower



*Viburnum plicatum* cultivar with globe-like flower clusters.



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**Tea Viburnum (*Viburnum setigerum*)**

**Family name:** Adoxa (Adoxaceae)

**Native range:** China

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Shade tolerant, deciduous multi-stemmed shrub to 15'
- Gray, fissured (cracked-looking) with lenticels
- Smooth stems
- Green buds edged with red
- Often "leggy"



**Leaves:**

- Opposite, teeth widely spaced
- Oval to lance shaped
- 3" to 6" long, up to 2" wide
- Smooth, except for long, coarse hairs on veins underneath
- Bluish-green, turning reddish in fall

**Flowers:**

- White
- Flat topped clusters, 1-2" in diameter
- Blooms in May



**Fruit:**

- Maturing in September-October
- Showy, drooping clusters
- Egg-shaped reddish-orange to orange
- Often abundant and causing limbs to droop



**Habitat:**

- Forests and landscaping
- Sun to shade

**Commercial availability:** Yes



Green buds, edged in red

**Look-alikes:**

The *Viburnum* species are best differentiated by leaf shape, fruit color, buds, and flower and fruit structure.

For additional look-alikes, see NJISST fact sheets for: **linden viburnum** (*V. dilatatum*), **wayfaring tree** (*V. lantana*), **doublefile viburnum** (*V. plicatum*), and **Siebold's viburnum** (*V. sieboldii*).

**Siebold's viburnum (*Viburnum sieboldii*)**

**Also called:** Siebold's arrowwood

**Family name:** Adoxa (Adoxaceae)

**Native range:** Japan

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 - Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous large shrub or small tree
- 15'-20' tall and 10'-15' wide
- Stout branching and large buds



**Leaves:**

- Opposite and coarsely toothed
- Oval shaped- 2"-5" long
- Thick, dark, leathery leaves, deeply veined
- Leaf veins & leaf stems covered in downy hairs
- Crushed leaves may emit foul odor (burnt rubber or skunk)



**Flowers:**

- Small, off-white
- 5 petals on each tiny flower
- Borne on flat-topped clusters 3"-6" across
- Blooms in late May



Siebold's viburnum flowers are similar to other viburnums.

**Fruit:**

- Oval, single-seeded fruits borne in clusters
- Maturing from red to black
- Fruit borne on bright red stems
- Appearing August-September



**Habitat:**

- Forest, open forest, edge, hedgerow, landscaping
- Shade tolerant

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

The *Viburnum* species are best differentiated by leaf shape, fruit color, buds, and flower and fruit structure.

**Leatherleaf viburnum**

(*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*)

- Non-native shrub, potentially invasive
- Evergreen
- Twigs, leaves & stems are hairy
- Untoothed leaves
- Very wrinkled leaf surface
- Similar flower



Leatherleaf leaves

**Blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)**

- Native shrub/ small tree
- Opposite, finely toothed leaves with upcurved fine veins
- Leaves 1.5"-3.5", NOT leathery
- Blue berries occur in clusters
- Showy white flowers



Blackhaw leaves

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For additional look-alikes, see NJISST fact sheets for: **linden viburnum** (*V. dilatatum*), **wayfaring tree** (*V. lantana*), **doublefile viburnum** (*V. plicatum*), and **tea viburnum** (*V. setigerum*).

## Wisteria (*Wisteria spp.*)

**Species names:** Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) and Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)

**Family name:** Pea (Fabaceae)

**General description:**

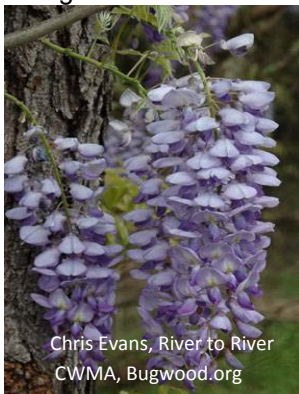
- Deciduous woody vine
- Smooth light gray bark
- Mature stem is fluted, muscle-like
- Sends out a large amount of “runners,” vines that travel along the ground making a very dense root network

**Leaves:**

- Alternate leaves, pinnately compound with a terminal leaf

**Flowers:**

- Blooms mid-May
- Lavender, purple, or white hanging clusters
- 6-20” long
- Blooms only when its mature and in full sunlight



**Fruit:**

- Bean-like pods, 4-6” long
- Green and hairy, turns brown and cracks when mature



**Habitat:**

- Roadsides, forest edge, open woods, stream edges, meadows, gardens, and landscaping
- Prefers moist soil, shade tolerant

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)**

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 3 – Common (may be regionally abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate newly emerging occurrences only.

**General description:**

- Can grow up to 40’ tall and 10’ wide
- Twines up counter-clockwise



**Leaves:**

- Leaf is 4-16” long with 7-13 leaflets, each 3” long



**Flowers:**

- All flowers open simultaneously

## Wisteria (*Wisteria spp.*)

### Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

#### General description:

- Can reach heights of 65' and 10' wide
- Twines up clockwise



#### Leaves:

- 12" long  
13-19 leaflets, each 3" long



#### Flowers:

- Blooms from base to tip

#### Look-alikes:

##### America Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*):

- Native vine of Southeast, introduced further north
- Leaves 4"-12" long
- 9-15 leaflets, each 0.75"-2.5" long
- Not fragrant, inflorescences 4"-10" long
- Blooms June-August
- Hairless seed pod



##### Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*):

- Native vine of Southeast, introduced further north
- Opposite and pinnately compound leaves, serrated
- Blooms in late spring through early summer with orange-red elongated flowers



**Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*)**

**Family name:** Elms (Ulmaceae)

**Native range:** Asia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 - Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Medium sized deciduous tree, 50' to 80 ' tall
- Short trunk, branches are vase shaped
- Young bark is reddish-brown, smooth, and has lenticels
- Mature bark is mottled grey with patches of reddish-brown



**Leaves:**

- Alternate, simple, 1 to 4" long
- Serrated edges and distinct veins
- Dark green in summer and can range from yellow to dark red or purple in the fall



**Fruit:**

- Fruit ripens in October
- Oval, 0.5" long, and inconspicuous drupes



**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Ash (*Fraxinus spp.*)**

- Opposite leaves
- Lacks vase shape of Japanese Zelkova

**Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*)**

- Non-native
- Leaf blade uneven at the base
- Yellow-brown bark



**Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)**

- Non-native
- Small leaves, 1-2" long
- Tall, slender trunk
- Peeling grey bark, orange and white underneath



**Flowers:**

- Blooms in April
- Yellow-green and small, not showy
- Tight clusters along branches

G. Lumis

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