



Weed of the Month for August 2017

Japanese Hops (*Humulus japonicus*)

Origin: Japan & Eastern China

Interesting Fact: Japanese Hops is *not* used in making beer. The native Common Hops (*Humulus lupulus*) is what is used in beer production and can be distinguished from Japanese Hops by having leaves with 3 lobes (occasionally 1 and 5 as well).

Description: Japanese Hops is a perennial herbaceous vine with stems that can grow up to 35 ft. in length and has opposite leaves with 5-7 lobes; greenish, inconspicuous flowers, and lantern-shaped seed structures.

Defining characteristics:

- Opposite leaves normally with 5-7 lobes (occasionally 3)
- Stem has lots of rough hairs, causing it to feel “sticky”
- Greenish, small flowers in late summer
- Lantern-like seed structures that form in fall



(Left image) The 5-7 lobed leaves of Japanese Hops

(Center image) Close up of the “sticky stem”

(Right image) Japanese Hops seed structures



Habitat: Found along wood edges, old fields, ditches, riparian areas, and roadsides.

A large patch of Japanese Hops at the Vincennes composting site.



Ecological threat: Japanese Hops can form very dense stands and shade out native species. The seeds spread easily by wind and waterways.

Control Methods:

- Manual: Small individuals can be hand pulled. This is most effective for small, young patches in spring to early summer.
- Chemical: Herbicide applications are the most effective method for large infestations. Glyphosate or Metsulfuron methyl can be application in mid-late summer at a foliar concentration.*

*Always follow herbicide label instructions.

References

INPSAWG. Japanese Hops Invasive Plant Fact Sheet. 2007. Web. www.invasivespecies.IN.gov

Kaufman, Sylvan R. and Wallace Kaufman. Invasive Plants. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2012. Print.