

Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata* (Miq.) Seem.)

Brief General Description:

Native to Eastern Russia, China, Korea, and Japan, Japanese angelica tree was introduced to the US in 1830 as an garden ornamental. It has a close lookalike in our native Devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*), and it is thought that the spread of Japanese angelica may be underestimated due to difficulty telling them apart.

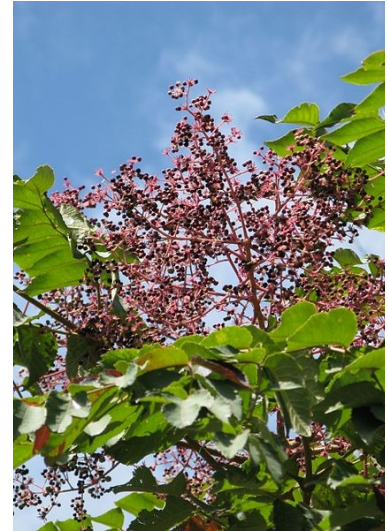
Birds can be a major vector for spread for this plant, and can form large thickets quickly through root sprouts.

Physical ID Characteristics:

A broadleaf deciduous tree, it can grow up to 40 feet tall with many stems per one individual tree. It features the same sharp prickles and spines as the native species.



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Its alternately-growing leaves are bi- or tri-pinnately compound and heavily serrated. They have a hairy underside and veins running to the ends of the serrations.

Large creamy white flowers appear in panicles at the from July-August, and can be told apart from the native by terminal flower stalk length—*A. elata* has a much shorter terminal flower stalk.

Likely Habitat:

Japanese angelica tree will grow most readily in full sun to partial shade, and prefers moist, well-drained soils. Typically it can be found at wood edges, open areas, and overtopping thickets.

Management techniques:

Young plants can be cut or dug up readily. General use herbicides are also effective when applied to either foliage or as a cut-stump formulation. Simple mechanical cutting without an herbicide application can result in aggressive resprouting.



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