

Japanese Hops (*Humulus japonicus*)

Identification:

Japanese hops is an annual, herbaceous vine that can grow up to 35 feet in a single growing season. The leaves are opposite with 5 to 7 lobes and serrate, or toothed, edges. The leaves have a rough surface and the stem is covered in prickles. Female flowers are the cone shaped clusters that are known as hops and male flowers are upright and stem like. This vine colonizes disturbed soils like river banks, roadsides, forest edges and fields. Preferring moist soil and full sun but can also grow in sandy, loamy, or clay soils.



Management Techniques:

Plant can be pulled manually but all of the roots must be removed otherwise re-sprouting may occur.

Native Range and Original Introduction:

Native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, it was brought to the U.S. in the mid-to-late 1800s as an ornamental and as a medicinal plant. This is not the type of hops used for beer making.



Look-a-Likes:

Common hops (*Humulus lupulus*) have either no lobes or three lobes. Bur cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus*) can look similar but this plant lacks prickles, has tendrils, and the lobes are less pronounced.