

Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania

Jetbead

Rhodotypos scandens



Photo: John Randall, The Nature Conservancy, www.bugwood.org

Background:

Jetbead is native to central China, Korea and Japan. It was introduced into the United States in 1866 as an ornamental.

Range:

Jetbead is widespread in the northeastern and midwestern United States, from Wisconsin and Indiana east to New England and south to Kentucky and Tennessee. It has also been reported in South Carolina and Alabama.

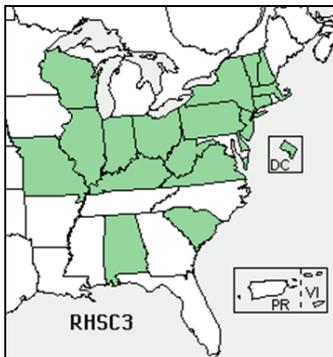


Image courtesy of USDA PLANTS Database

Description:

Jetbead is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub in the rose family (*Rosaceae*), maturing to a height of five feet and width of seven feet. The bright green leaves are opposite, simple and doubly serrate with a rough leaf surface. Leaves are two to four inches long and one to two inches wide. White flowers with four-petals occur in small terminal clusters. The spring flowers give way to small black bead-like fruit in groups of four.



Photo: John Randall, The Nature Conservancy, www.bugwood.org

Habitat:

This species can grow in full sun to full shade but prefers full sun with moist, well-drained soils. It is adaptable to poor soils, various soil pH, soil compaction, shady spots, drought and tolerates salt and urban pollution.

Biology and Spread:

This species spreads primarily by seed and root suckers. Seeds are shining black and hard, ripening in October. Seeds may persist on the plant through winter.

Ecological Threat:

Jetbead invades forested areas, creating a thick shrub layer which could displace native shrubs, shade out understory species and restrict tree seedling establishment. Found in at least 17 states east of the Mississippi, it is invasive in natural habitats away from intentional plantings.



Photo: Sten Porse, www.en.wikipedia.org

How to Control this Species:

Manual

Small plants may be removed by hand digging. Remove the entire root system. For larger infestations, cut shrubs to the ground in the fall or winter.

Chemical

This species can be controlled effectively using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Apply in the spring. Be sure to follow the label and all state requirements.

Look-A-Likes:

Jetbead does resemble southern arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum*) in leaf shape and habit. The leaf margins differ, with jetbead having finely toothed, doubly serrate leaf margins while arrow-wood leaves are coarsely toothed and singly serrate.



Southern Arrow-wood

Photo: Vern Wilkins,
www.bugwood.org

Native Alternatives:

There are a variety of good native shrub species with value to wildlife and aesthetics, including: spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*).



Photo: Dow Garden Archives,
www.forestryimages.org



Photo: Sten Porse, www.en.wikipedia.org



Photo: Jessica Sprajcar, DCNR

References:

U.S. Forest Service Invasive Plants website:

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants

USDA PLANTS Database: <http://plants.usda.gov>

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health:

<http://www.invasive.org>

University of Connecticut:

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/r/rhosca/rhosca1.html>

For More Information:

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, National Park Service:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/midatlantic.pdf>

Invasive Plants Field and Reference Guide, U.S. Forest Service:

http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/ip/ip_field_guide.pdf