Japanese hop

*(Humulus japonicus)*

**Classification**

- **Order**: Rosales
- **Family**: Cannabaceae
- **Genus**: Humulus
- **Species**: H. japonicus
  (Sieblod & Zucc., 1846)

**Originated in temperate zones of Eastern Asia.**
**Introduced in France in the Jardin des Plantes botanical garden in Paris in 1880. First observed in the natural environment of the Gard department in 2004.**

**Description**

- An annual plant that sprouts in the spring and forms a long creeper 2.5 to 6 metres long
- A single plant can create large “sheets” of single-species vegetation covering up to 50 square metres of ground
- The hexagonal stalk has numerous branches
- Hard, clinging hairs
- Opposing leaves (7 to 10 cm long), with a long stem (longer than the blade):
  - light green in colour
  - palmatifoliated (5 to 7, but up to 9 lobes)
  - the veins on the underside have hard hairs
- Male and female inflorescence on different plants (dioecious species):
  - the female inflorescence consists of hanging ovoid cones
  - the male inflorescence is a branched panicle, pale greenish yellow in colour
- Achenes are dark brown with black streaks, 2 to 3 mm long in cones comprising numerous bracts having a texture similar to paper and covered glandular hairs
- The root system is slightly pivoting and has numerous secondary roots

**Ecology and reproduction**

- Habitats include river banks (above the water level) and idle land
- The plants tend toward rather moist soil with a high nitrogen content, but are indifferent to the pH level
- Exclusively sexual reproduction with pollination by the wind and insects
- The pollen has very high allergenic potential, comparable to that of common ragweed in Korea

**Documentation**


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