



# Japanese hop (*Humulus japonicus*)

**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
  - palmatilobed (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

- Fried G. 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp.
- Smage des Gardons. Plantes invasives des Gardons. Fiche espèce sur le Houblon japonais.  
<http://invasives.les-gardons.com/wikini/wakka.php?wiki=HumulusJaponicus>

Authors : Emmanuelle Sarat, IUCN French committee, and Guillaume Fried, Anses

Classification	
Order	Rosales
Family	Cannabaceae
Genus	<i>Humulus</i>
Species	<i>H. japonicus</i> (Sieblod & Zucc., 1846)



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