



Japanese angelica tree

Aralia elata

Common Names: Hercules-club

Native Origin: Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Russian Far East

Description: An upright deciduous shrub or tree in the Araliaceae family reaching a height of 20 to 40 feet and width of 15 to 30 feet with an irregular, spreading, multi-stemmed form. Coarse, thick stems have sharp prickles and prominent large leaf scars. The stems are covered in spines. Large dark green alternate leaves (2-4 feet long) are bi- or tri-pinnately compound. Leaves are pubescent beneath, with veins running to the ends of the serrations. In fall, leaves turn yellow to reddish purple and may drop early in season. The cream white flowers grow in large panicles and bloom in late summer (July-August). Inflorescence branches from the base. Flowers produce small purple to black berries, taken by birds or dropped early. It suckers from base and spreads.

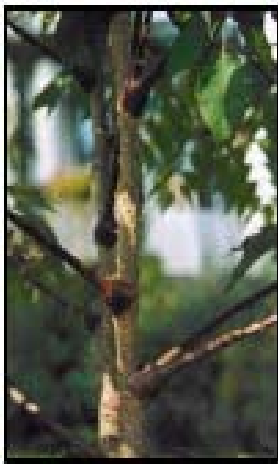


Habitat: This rapid growing plant prefers sun to partial shade locations. It can grow in a range of soil types but prefers moist, well drained soil.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in Pennsylvania.



Ecological Impacts: Luxuriant foliage casts dense shade, which might suppress more desirable lower growing plants.



Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Cut, pull, dig up or mow young plants
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.

References:

<http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/a/araela/araela1.html, <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html>, www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/treesnew/aralia_elata.html, www.biologie.uni-ulm.de/systax/dendrologie/araliatwg.htm, Thomas Rawinski, USDA, FS