

Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)

Family name: Pea or bean (Fabaceae)

Native range: Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

General description:

- Vigorous, climbing, perennial vine, to 65'
- Bark light gray and smooth
- Mature stems fluted, muscle-like
- Stems twine clockwise



Leaves:

- Alternate, pinnately compound, 12" long
- 13-19 untoothed, oval leaflets
- Spine-like projections at the base of each raised leaf scar
- Autumn foliage not notable, yellowish



Flowers:

- Showy, hanging clusters of fragrant whitish to violet blooms
- 8" to 20" long
- White and pink flowered cultivars
- Individual flowers are pea-like
- flowers open from the base to the apex
- Blooms May



Flowers buds before bloom



Fruit:

- Fuzzy pea-like pods, 4"-6" long
- Green turning brown at maturity
- Seeds dark brown, flat, shiny
- Ripening in late August-September



Habitat:

- Roadsides, forest edges, open woods, stream edges, meadows, gardens, landscaping
- Prefers rich, moist soil

Commercial availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*)

- Native vine of Southeast, introduced further north
- Leaves 4"-12" long
- 9-15 leaflets, 0.75"-2.5" long each
- Not fragrant, inflorescences 4"-10" long
- Blooms June-August
- Hairless seed pod



American wisteria has small leaves and blooms

Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)

- Invasive vine
- 7-13 leaflets
- Stems twine counterclockwise
- Flowers open more or less simultaneously



Chinese wisteria 7-13 leaflets



Chinese wisteria twines clockwise

