

Invasive Species Alert

Japanese Chaff Flower

(*Achyranthes japonica*)

Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Perennial herb grows three to six feet high
- Grows in late spring to early July and flowers in late summer
- Flower is a green, bottle brush-like spike with no petals
- Leaves are opposite and simple with smooth edges and a pointed tip
- The stem at the ground is red, even in seedlings
- Stems remain erect and turn orange-brown in fall and winter

Habitat: Prefers partial sun and moist areas including floodplains and shorelines. Can also grow in shade, full sun and dry areas.

Native Range: East Asia

U.S. Distribution: Mainly concentrated along the Big Sandy and Ohio Rivers: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia.

Local Concern: Outcompetes native species and forms large, dense stands in floodplains, forested wetlands, ditches, vacant land and other disturbed edge habitats.

Look-alikes: Commonly confused with white vervain and lopseed, which have toothed leaf edges, or pigweeds, which have alternate leaves.



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Methods of introduction and spread: Seeds can be transported by floodwaters, rivers and streams, wildlife, equipment and soil transport. Seeds readily attach to fabrics and hair.

Report this species at
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