



FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *CUSCUTA JAPONICA*
COMMON NAME: JAPANESE DODDER
NOT KNOWN TO OCCUR IN SC OR NC

WHAT IS JAPANESE DODDER?



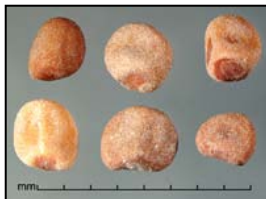
Plant Type: Annual, parasitic, twinning vine with circular, fleshy, many branching stems. Stems are pale yellow with red spots and striations. Parasitizes host plants by penetrating the vascular tissue of the host stem with structures called haustoria, then extracts nutrients and water.

Form/Size: Parasite of crops, legumes, and ornamental plantings; stems

resemble cooked spaghetti. Can grow up to 6 inches per day. Leaves: Minute and scale-like.

Flowers: Pale yellow, sessile, small, abundant, appear late summer and fall.

Fruit: Round, 2-loculed capsule containing up to 4 seeds (seeds remain viable for 10-20 years).



Means of Spread: Fruit matures at the same time as host fruit and are harvested simultaneously. Seeds are viable. Sticky stem fragments will readily sprout haustoria and are easily spread by birds, mammals, humans, and vehicles.



Family: Convolvulaceae

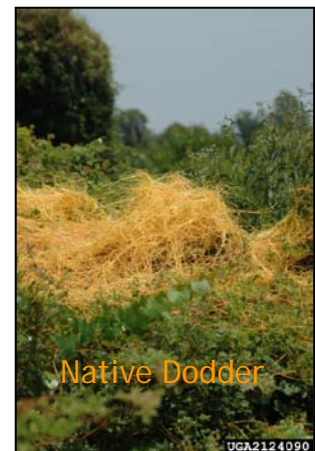
Similar Species: Native Dodder species have orange stems that are thin and threadlike and are usually restricted from spreading by host specificity (some can still be crop and horticultural pests)

WHERE DID JAPANESE DODDER COME FROM?

Origin: Asia.

Date of Introduction: Unknown, first found parasitizing kudzu in a greenhouse in San Antonio, Texas in 1941.

Reason: Intentionally for medicinal use, commonly intercepted as a contaminant of commercially imported seed.



WHERE AM I LIKELY TO FIND JAPANESE DODDER?

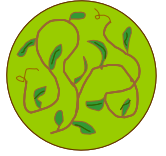
Habitat Type: Cultivated and perennial crops, pastures, ditch banks, roadsides.

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species



FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



Distribution in SC: Pickens County (Eradicated)

Distribution in NC: Not detected



WHY IS JAPANESE DODDER A PROBLEM?

Environment: -Kills and displaces native plant species, impedes birds and other animals from using the native host plants, alter habitat structure for wildlife, degrades native habitats by reducing biodiversity.

Economy: -Agricultural weed causing reductions in yield of many crops and, if infestations are heavy, death of the host. Will also invade nurseries,

orchards, and ornamental plantings causing economic loss.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND JAPANESE DODDER?

Report: Take a photo, GPS location if possible, report the observation to EDDMAPS: <http://www.se-eppc.org/> (location, size of infestation, etc.). **In SC:** Call the Clemson Department of Plant Industry at 864-646-2130 to report. Send digital photo to John Nelson at the USC Herbarium: plantman@herbarium.org for verification.

Control: Methods include manual removal of the parasite from host plants, chemical treatments to kill the parasite on the host plant prior to removal, use of soil sterilants to help kill the seeds in the soil as well as germinated seedlings, and high heat flame



treatments to kill any residual dodder seeds on or near the soil surface.

Disposal: Bag or burn all plant material.



CURRENT LISTINGS:

Federal Noxious Weed

State Noxious Weed in 14 states including SC and NC

SC-EPPC: Watch A/Vine

LEARN MORE!

- Invasive.org (images and control information links): <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=5446>
- Texas Invasives: http://www.texasinvasives.org/invasives_database/detail.php?symbol=CUJA
- Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules of the U.S. (seed image): <http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/FNW/FNW%20seeds/html/fact%20sheets/Cuscuta.htm>

Prepared by Sudie Daves Thomas for SC-EPPC and Early Detection & Rapid Response System

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species