

## *Humulus japonicus*, Japanese Hops

There is one confirmed record of this plant in the Capital-Mohawk region near Huck Finn's Warehouse in Albany. This vine exhibits fast and dense growth, rapidly expanding in sunny areas where they are not managed. It was introduced as an ornamental plant.

**Population Status:** Confirmed- Albany and Schenectady Co., Historical- Rensselaer Co. Unconfirmed- Washington Co.

**Description:** Japanese Hops are a vine species that can grow 35 feet in a single growing season. Its seed can be dispersed by a variety of vectors. It is dioecious and has palmate leaves with five to seven lobes. Its stems have hooked hairs that can be a distinguishing factor and the species flowers in mid to late summer. The species flowers in short spikes.

**Control:** All above and belowground parts of the plant must be destroyed, making Japanese Hops a hard species for manual removal.

**Look-alikes:** Common Hops and Bur Cucumber (non-native?) look somewhat like Japanese Hops. Common Hops have more rounded lobes on the leaves and Bur Cucumber has a very distinctive fruit, these can be used to tell species apart. Porcelain-berry can also look somewhat like Japanese Hops, though the fruiting structure is quite different.

**Flower Time and Description:** Flowers are green with five petals. The plants are dioecious and they produce those flowers in cone-shaped clusters that bloom in early-mid summer.

