

INVASIVE ALERT:



Image by Cody Mendoza.

Black Jetbead

Rhodotypos scandens

Have you seen this plant?

Rhodotypos scandens, commonly known as Black Jetbead, is a woody deciduous shrub native to Central China, Korea, and Japan. This shrub can grow to be 5 feet tall. It can be identified by its rough, deeply furrowed, doubly serrate leaves, opposite branching, and clusters of 3-4 round berries at the tips of the branches which are greenish white when immature and turn black as they age.

References:

"Black Jetbead ." USDA Forest Service , n.d. Web. 8 July 2017. <https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/black-jetbead.pdf>.



Where is it?

Black Jetbead is an emerging invasive species in the Northeastern United States. Infestations of this plant have been reported as far North as Wisconsin, and as far South as Alabama. This plant prefers full sun, but is capable of escaping cultivation into partially shaded forest understories.

How does it spread?

Black Jetbead is capable of spreading both by seed and by sending up new shoots from its root system.

Why is it a problem?

The Black Jetbead invasion is problematic because it forms dense stands in the forest understory that can shade out native herbaceous plants, such as Pink Lady-Slipper, wild strawberries, and fern species. Jetbead also crowds out native shrubs such as Spicebush. Dense stands of Jetbead can even shade out tree seedlings, interfering with forest succession.

When should I look for it?

Black Jetbead flowers in late spring to early summer, and its characteristic black, bead-like berries mature in late summer.

What should I do if I see it?

You can help fight the Black Jetbead invasion! If you spot it, please make a note of its location and report it to the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference by calling (201)512-9348 ext. 821, or send us an email at invasives@nynjtc.org.

