

Jetbead
(*Rhodotypos scandens*)
Rose Family (Rosaceae)

DESCRIPTION

Jetbead is a deciduous shrub with opposite, simple leaves. It is the only member of the Rose Family with opposite leaves in our flora. It spreads rhizomatously to form thickets.

Height – Jetbead grows to a maximum height of 6 feet but is usually closer to 3 feet tall.

Stem – Stems are woody, stiffly upright to somewhat arching, and have numerous lateral branches in an opposite arrangement (2 per node).

Leaves – The leaves are simple, about 2--4 inches long, taper to a sharp tip and are sharply doubly toothed.



Jetbead in fruit

Flowers – The flowers are about 1 inch in diameter with 4 white petals and 4 prominent green sepals with toothed margins, 4 distinct ovaries, and numerous stamens. They bloom in late spring to early summer.

Fruits and seeds – Each ovary ripens into a single-seeded, dry, shiny black drupelet about ¼ inch in diameter, so that each flower produces a cluster of four black fruits surrounded by the calyx. The fruits persist on the plants well into the winter.

HABITAT

Jetbead can establish itself on roadside banks and in forest edges and understory. It seems to thrive in varied soil conditions and light ranging from full sun to shade.

DISTRIBUTION

Jetbead is native to central China, Korea and Japan; it was introduced into the ornamental nursery trade in 1866. Currently it is found in at least 17 states east of the Mississippi. In Pennsylvania it is known from 13 counties mainly in the southeast and around other metropolitan centers.

EFFECTS OF INVASION

Although no data are available on jetbead's effects on native flora, it occupies a position in the forest understory that would normally support native understory shrubs such as maple-leaf viburnum or low bush blueberry. Dense stands of jetbead are thought to suppress native herbaceous and shrub species and may also compete with tree seedlings for light on the forest floor.

REPRODUCTION AND METHOD OF DISPERSAL

This shrub flowers and fruits abundantly; the shiny black fruits are dispersed by small mammals and birds. Jetbead also spreads rhizomatously to form thickets.

CONTROL

Mechanical – Pulling or digging are effective, but all parts of the root and rhizome system must be removed to prevent regrowth.

Chemical – Foliar applications of glyphosate should be effective. Since glyphosate is nonselective and will affect all green vegetation, care should be taken to avoid impacting native plants. At sites where this is a concern, application of the herbicide to the freshly cut stumps of the invasive shrubs should achieve the desired results. This method minimizes damage to other plants.

Biological – No biological control methods are known at this time.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES FOR LANDSCAPE USE

In landscape situations several native viburnums such as arrow-wood (*V. dentatum*, *V. recognitum*) or maple-leaf viburnum (*V. acerifolium*) would be good choices to replace jetbead. Other choices might include chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*, *A. arbutifolia*) or spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*).

REFERENCES

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Internet resources - www.paflora.org, <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/modatlantic.rhsc.htm>.



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