

# Japanese angelica tree

*Aralia elata*



**Native Range:** Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Russian Far East

**Other Names:** Hercules-club



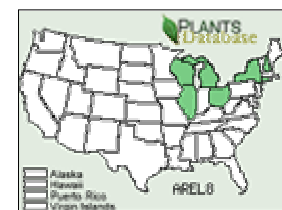
**Description:** An upright deciduous shrub or tree in the Araliaceae family reaching a height of 20 to 40 feet and width of 15 to 30 feet with an irregular, spreading, multi-stemmed form. Coarse, thick stems have sharp prickles and prominent large leaf scars. The stems are covered in spines. Large dark green alternate leaves (2-4 feet long) are bi- or tri-pinnately compound. Leaves are pubescent beneath, with veins running to the ends of the serrations. In fall, leaves turn yellow to reddish purple and may drop early in season. The cream white flowers grow in large panicles and bloom in late summer (July-August). Inflorescence branches from the base.



Flowers produce small purple to black berries, taken by birds or dropped early. It suckers from base and spreads.

**Habitat:** This rapid growing plant prefers sun to partial shade locations. It can grow in a range of soil types but prefers moist, well drained soil.

**Distribution:** Japanese angelica tree is on the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council Plant list and is considered invasive in Pennsylvania. It is distributed to other states shaded on the map.



**Ecological Threat:** Luxuriant foliage casts dense shade, which might suppress more desirable lower-growing plants.

**Control and Management:**

Mechanical: Cut, pull, dig up or mow young plants  
 Chemical: Use selective applications of herbicides using directed foliar sprays, stem injections, cut-treat, basal sprays, and/or soil spots.

**References:** [www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/a/araela/araela1.html](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/a/araela/araela1.html), <http://plants.usda.gov>, <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html>, [www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/aralia\\_elata.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/aralia_elata.html), [www.biologie.uni-ulm.de/systax/dendrologie/araliatwg.htm](http://www.biologie.uni-ulm.de/systax/dendrologie/araliatwg.htm), Thomas Rawinski, USDA, FS