

JETBEAD

[*Rhodotypos scandens* (Thunb.) Makino]

RHSC3



Fig. 1

J. Stingelin Keefer

Problem: Native to eastern Asia,^{1,2,5} jetbead (Fig. 1) was introduced to the United States in 1866.¹ This species can form dense stands in the understory that can inhibit the growth of native plants.⁴

Habit: Loosely branched, deciduous shrub with ascending and somewhat arching branches;¹ to 2 m (6 ft) tall^{1,5} and ~3 m (9 ft) wide.¹

Reproduction: Sexually by seed and vegetatively;¹ seeds are dispersed by birds.⁴

Leaves: Opposite, simple,³ ovate, acuminate or long pointed tip, ~6.5 to 10 cm (2½ to 4 in) long, doubly serrate margin;^{1,4} bright green and glabrous above, lighter green and silky beneath;¹ short petioles¹ (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

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Stems: Young: green and glabrous and shiny;¹ older stems are gray streaked with orange to reddish-brown lenticels.¹

Flowers: April to early June;^{1,5} 4-petaled white flowers from ~2 to 5 cm (~¾ to 2 in) diameter;^{1,5} (Fig. 3) born singly at end of short twigs.¹

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Fig. 3

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Fruits/Seeds: Clusters of 3 to 4 red turning shiny black, 1-seeded, berry-like drupelets (Fig. 4).^{1,5} Fruits ripen in October and persist through the winter.¹

Habitat: Roadsides, disturbed woods, and cultivated landscapes.⁵ Hardy; grows in a wide range of soil and light conditions.^{1,4}

Similar Species: When sapling-size, the leaves of some species in the birch family, Betulaceae, may resemble jetbead (Figs. 5 and 6), however, branching is alternate,



Fig. 4

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generally single-stemmed. Native shrubs in the *Viburnum* genus may also resemble jetbead. Branching is opposite, but the form is different and the fruits differ in color and number of fruits per cluster (Figs. 7 and 8).

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Fig. 8



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