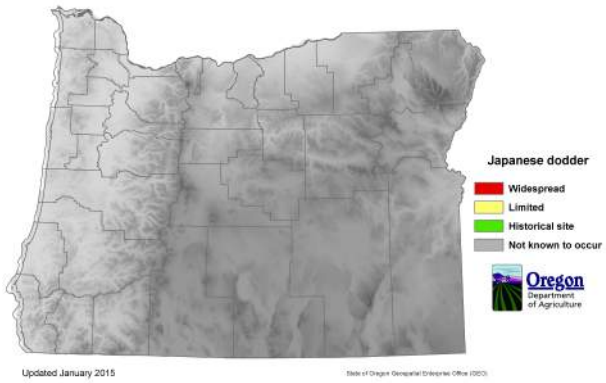
Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Japanese dodder
Cuscuta japonica

Other common names: giant Asian dodder, Tu Si Zi

USDA symbol: CUJA
ODA rating: A

Introduction: Japanese dodder is common throughout eastern Asia. Japanese dodder and other dodders seeds are an ancient Chinese herbal remedy for impotence and improving male libido. It is hardy in warm temperate climates with significant infestations in Florida, South Carolina, and Texas. In California, it has been located as far north as Redding. It is unlikely to be found in hot, dry desert climates or at high altitudes. Seeds are dispersed by moving water, soil disturbance or by humans. Asexual reproduction also occurs through stem fragmentation, seriously complicating control efforts. Some infestations resulted from dodder seed contamination in agricultural products imported from foreign sources.



Distribution in Oregon: This plant is not known to exist in Oregon though the climate on the south coast is well suited for dodder establishment. It is a Federally listed "A" rated species nation-wide and is restricted from all commerce and transport.

Description: Japanese dodder is an aggressive parasitic vine possessing no chlorophyll, therefor receiving its energy from its host plant. The leafless vines are showy with vibrant yellow-green or gold coloration. It has robust, spaghetti-like stems in sharp contrast to all other native and introduced dodder species in North America which are low-growing and more thread or string-like. Infestations are often large, spreading, covering and killing large shrubs and trees. In contrast, infestations of other dodder species are likely to be smaller, infecting non-woody plants or small shrubs. In cooler climates plants die back in the winter but in warm regions, the species grows almost year-round.

Impacts: Japanese dodder is well established in wild lands, nature reserves, roadsides, and on unimproved property in several southern states. The species sickens and often kills its plant hosts. The loss of host plants in riparian areas impact food supplies, nesting habitat, streamside shading, and erosion control. Only the tallest trees are resistant to the parasitic effects. Japanese dodder is also an economic threat to certain agricultural and horticultural industries in several states. Commercial fruit and nut trees are at risk and may need to be culled to protect the rest of the orchard. The species also serves as a host for several viruses known to be detrimental to agricultural crops.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. If this weed is found in the state, it will be targeted for eradication.

Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • 503-986-4621
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Barry Rice, Victor Cordova, Kim Camilli: Bugwood.org