

HOLLOW-STEMMED JOE-PYE WEED

***Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus*
(Barrett) King and H. Rob.**

Plant Symbol = EUFI2



Contributed by: USDA NRCS National Plant Materials Center, Beltsville, MD

Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1989. Midwest wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species. Midwest National Technical Center, Lincoln.

Alternate Names

Trumpetweed, Joe-Pye Weed, *Eupatorium fistulosum* L.

Uses

Ethnobotanical: Native Americans use the tea of Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed as a diuretic. A tea of the roots is used to treat fevers, colds, chills, sore womb after childbirth, diarrhea, and liver and kidney ailments. A wash of the root tea is also used for rheumatism and as a diaphoretic.

Landscaping and wildlife: Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed is an outstanding plant in flower and is popular for wet or moist meadow plantings, and native landscape gardens. Make sure to give this plant ample room due to its impressive size. The nectar from the flowers is very attractive to a variety of pollinators, including butterflies, skippers, and long-tongued bees. Various caterpillars, such as *Schinia trifascia* (Three-lined Flower Moth), *Papaipema eupatorii* (Eupatorium Borer Moth), and *Haploa clymene* (Clymene Moth) eat various portions of *Eupatoriadelphus* spp.

Status

Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed is listed as a special concern in Maine, as a threatened species in Michigan, and as endangered in New Hampshire. Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description and Adaptation

Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed is a native perennial wildflower that grows from 2 - 6 feet tall. The central stem is hollow, giving the plant its common name. The flowers are fragrant, purple or pink and occur in round clusters of 5 to 7 florets per head. Flowers appear in mid- to late summer (July-September). The florets produce wind-dispersed achenes (small dry seed with hair-like bristles). The ovate (egg-shaped) leaves have conspicuous veins, grow up to 10 inches long, and usually appear in whorls of 4 to 7. The fibrous root system sometimes produces rhizomes (horizontal stem with shoots above and roots below), which create colonies.

Distribution: Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed grows in moist to wet soils in full sun to partial shade. It is widely distributed from Quebec to Missouri and south to Florida and Texas (USDA cold hardiness zones 3 – 9). It is rarely found on disturbed sites and grows in woods, wet meadows and fields.

Establishment

Seed propagation

Seeds ripen about a month after flowering and should be collected when the heads dry, split and the fluffy seed begins to float away. If collected earlier, dry the seed heads for 1 - 2 weeks in open paper bags. If seeds are sown directly, sow in the fall and sow thickly as germination rates are typically low. For container production, a cold-moist pretreatment at 40 degrees Fahrenheit for 3 weeks to 3 months will increase germination percentages. After pretreatment, sow seeds in a fine germination mix containing milled sphagnum moss. Transplant to potting mix after seeds have germinated. Seeds germinate at 70 - 85 degrees Fahrenheit and in the presence of light. Use a greenhouse with alternating temperatures (day temperatures 70 - 85 degrees Fahrenheit, and night temperatures 65 - 68 degrees Fahrenheit). Seeds will last up to 3 years if stored in a cold (40 degrees Fahrenheit) and dry (30% relative humidity) environment.

Vegetative propagation

Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed can be propagated by division or two-node softwood tip cuttings taken in late spring. Divide the plants in the fall as they go dormant or in the spring just as shoots first appear.

Management

Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed prefers damp, moist to wet, rich soils, but it will also grow in gravelly or sandy soils if there is sufficient moisture. This plant prefers partial shade and neutral to slightly acidic soils. Livestock will eat the leaves of Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed, but it is not a preferred grazing plant.

Pests and Potential Problems

Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed is not drought-tolerant. The leaves are favored by grasshoppers, flea beetles and saw flies, which can leave them looking bedraggled by midsummer.

Environmental Concerns

No concerns at this time.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

There are no recommended cultivars or selected materials at this time.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>