

## 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, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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