

# Weed Alert! Japanese dodder



# Japanese dodder

(*Cuscuta japonica*)

**Mature Size** Vine



## Description

- Leafless, vibrant yellow-green to gold parasitic vine growing in dense tangles of spaghetti-like tendrils
- Uses specialized root structures to suck water and nutrients from host plants and eventually kill them
- Grows in large, spreading, web-like masses, often covering shrubs and trees
- Fleshy, round, twining stems, sometimes with small red to purplish spots
- Rarely has flowers, but when present, are tiny, pale yellow to cream colored, and grow in dense spikes
- Dies back in the winter, but returns hardily in the spring
- Reproduces vegetatively by sprouting from vine and root fragments
- Spread by wind, water, human activities, birds
- Native to Asia

**Bloom Period** Aug - Oct

**Habitat** Gardens, parks, orchards, wildlands, cropland, salt marshes



**2-Minute Removal** Dig

Image credits: Front top: Robin Breckenridge, CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture, Front center: Brenda Grewell, USDA-ARS, Front bottom: Dave Wilson, Sacramento, Back: Co. Dept. of Agriculture, ; icons by Tim Hyland

These cards were adapted from a design by National Park Service.