

Invasive Species Alert

Butterbur

Also Butterfly Dock or Pestilence Wort

(*Petasites hybridus*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Perennial, herbaceous flowering plant grows to 6 feet
- Simple, round to heart-shaped leaves are 1-2 feet across, with dense hairs on the underside
- Single leaves grown on hollow, ridged, 3-4 foot stems somewhat similar in appearance to rhubarb
- Flowers are pink to purple and grow on a spike that emerges before foliage in spring
- Fruit and seeds appear in a white, flower-like tuft



William M. Ciesla, Forest Health
Management International,
Bugwood.org

Habitat: Found in shaded areas with moist soil, including river banks, shorelines, wetland edges, forested floodplains and roadside ditches.

Native Range: Europe, Russia and Turkey

U. S. Distribution: New York to Ohio; Illinois, Michigan and Washington

Local Concern: Butterbur spreads easily by rhizomes or rhizome fragments. Large leaves shade out other vegetation, leaving bare earth beneath.

Report this species at
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report it from your phone