

Petasites japonicus – Japanese butterbur



From West Multnomah SWCD EDRR guide (2007):

General: Herbaceous perennial. Mature plants can reach up to 5 feet tall. Spreads by extensive rhizome network.

Leaves: Large (2 to 4 feet wide), rough-textured, elephant earlike leaves. Rounded, double-lobed, and often dark green. Grow on long, stout stalks with matted hairs on underside of leaf.

Flowers: Yellow to white inflorescences on flowering stems up to 50 inches tall. Bloom in compound bunches resembling an umbrella.

Fruit: Must have male and female plants to produce seeds.

Notes: Thrives in partial to full shade. Flower heads look similar to PNW native *Petasites* species (sweet & palmate coltsfoots).

Impacts: Rapidly colonizes areas, blocking light and outcompeting native plant species. Grows well in moist conditions. Invades forests, stream banks, and other moist, low-light environments.

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Breakout discussion notes:

- This plant is widespread: Forest Park, Germantown Road, NE Portland/Fernhill Park, Deep Creek, Raleighwood, Commonwealth Lake Park, Crystal Springs, Veterans Creek, Mt. Tabor
- It flowers early
- *P. fragrans* – small leaves
- *P. japonicus* – mostly spreads by fragments
- This plant has a large, rhizomatous root mass – glyphosate and triclopyr have almost no effect