

Photo: Tom Heutte, USDA FS



Photo: Wisconsin DNR



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Photo: Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, University of Silesia

Giant Knotweed

Polygonum sachalinense



Habit: Perennial, herbaceous shrub up to 4 m (12 ft); larger than many woody shrubs but stems die back to the ground each year.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, large, from 15-30 cm (6-12 in) long and two thirds as wide with a shallow, heart-shaped base.

Stems: Upright, round, hollow with swollen nodes; resemble bamboo shoots.

Flowers: Sparse, white or greenish flowers on a slender stalk; arise from the leaf axils and stem tips; bloom August-September.

Fruits/seeds: Fruits are three winged, seeds are dark and glossy; wind and water dispersed.

Habitat: Native to Asia, now found along roadsides, stream and river banks, wetlands, wet depressions and woodland edges; shade intolerant; can tolerate a wide array of soil and moisture conditions.

Reproduction: Spreads extensively through rhizomes and root or stem fragments; can provide pollen to related species to produce viable hybrid seed.

Similar species: Non-native Japanese knotweed (*P. cuspidatum*) is shorter (up to 10 ft tall) and its leaves are smaller (< 6 in long) with a flat base, rather than rounded basal lobes.

Comments: Native to Asia. Hybridizes with Japanese knotweed and silver lace vine (*P. baldschuanicum*).

Monitoring & rapid response: Monitor sunny open sites along paths, ditches and canals in August and September while it is in bloom. This species is difficult to control—research control options thoroughly, particularly for mechanical control methods. On riparian sites, consider upstream and downstream populations and herbicide impacts. Multiple control strategies may be needed for a single population. Resprouts vigorously after cutting, mowing, tilling and digging. Tiny fragments of roots and stem nodes can sprout and form new colonies—remove all cut plant materials and incinerate or place in landfill. Repeated foliar herbicide application may provide effective control. Cutting early in the season and then spraying later preferable as plants will still be short enough to spray with minimal non-target impact. Wicking or injecting herbicide may be suitable for ecologically sensitive sites but it is labor intensive. Follow-up required for years.



Japanese Knotweed

Polygonum cuspidatum (*Fallopia japonica*)

Habit: Perennial, herbaceous shrub reaching 3 m (10 ft); larger than many woody shrubs, stems die but stalks persist through winter.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, broad, up to 15 cm (6 in) long and 12 cm (5 in) wide with an abruptly pointed tip and a flat base.

Stems: Upright, round, hollow, glaucous, often mottled; nodes with a papery membrane; persistent dead stalks resemble bamboo.

Flowers: Numerous, small, green-white flowers on a slender stalk in leaf axils and near the ends of stems; bloom August-September.

Fruits/seeds: Fruits are three-winged, seeds are dark and glossy; wind and water dispersed.

Habitat: Semi-shade tolerant; found along roadsides, stream and river banks, wetlands, wet depressions and woodland edges; can tolerate a wide array of soil and moisture conditions.

Reproduction: Primarily through rhizomes or fragments; some U.S. populations produce abundant fertile seed; forms fertile hybrids with giant knotweed (*P. sachalinense*).

Similar species: Non-native giant knotweed (*P. sachalinense*) has much larger leaves (> 6 in long) with rounded, heart-shaped bases.

Comments: Native to Japan. This species is prohibited under Michigan law. It forms dense thickets that shade out natives; rhizomes can damage pavement; spread by flood waters.

Monitoring & rapid response: Monitor riverbanks, stream and pond edges, particularly downstream from known occurrences; most conspicuous in late summer while in bloom. This species is difficult to control—research control options thoroughly. On riparian sites, consider upstream and downstream populations and herbicide impacts. Multiple control strategies may be needed for a single population; resprouts vigorously after cutting, mowing, tilling and digging; tiny fragments of roots and stem nodes can sprout and form new colonies—remove all cut plant materials and incinerate or place in landfill. Repeated foliar herbicide application may provide effective control. Cutting early in the season and then spraying later preferable as plants will still be short enough to spray with minimal non-target impact. Wicking or injecting herbicide may be suitable for ecologically sensitive sites but it is labor intensive. Follow-up required for years.



Photo: Barry A. Rice, TNC



Photo: Jil M. Swearingen, NPS



Photo: Britt Slattery, USFWS



Photo: JMandy Tu, TNC

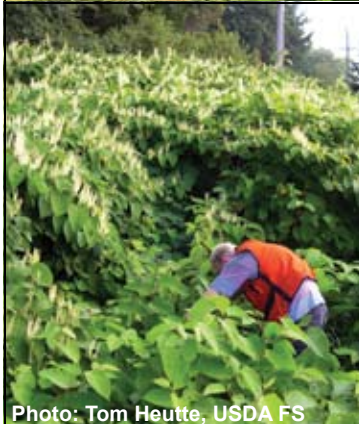


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