

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Polygonum cuspidatum (Fallopia japonica)

GIANT KNOTWEED

Polygonum sachalinense



Be on the lookout for this invader!



Photo: Trip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Description:

Herbaceous perennial shrub growing from 3-10 ft. (Japanese knotweed) or up to 12 ft. (Giant knotweed); broad leaves, hollow stems that resemble bamboo. Deep taproot with surface roots that extend laterally from 23-65 ft. Can cause structural damage to buildings, roads, etc.

Habitat:

Roadsides, river banks, wetlands, wet depressions, and woodland edges.

Mode of Spread:

Spreads primarily through rhizomes or fragments, in fertile locations by seeds. Extremely difficult to control once established.

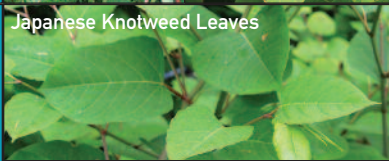
IDENTIFICATION

STEM



Stems: Upright, round, hollow, and often mottled, with a fine whitish coating that rubs off easily. Resembles bamboo.

LEAVES



Japanese Knotweed Leaves



Giant Knotweed Leaves

Leaves:

Japanese Knotweed: Simple, alternate and broad, typically growing up to 6" long and 5" wide with an abruptly pointed tip and a flat or tapering base.

Giant Knotweed: 6-12" long and 2/3 as wide with a shallow, heart-shaped base.

FLOWERS



AGGRESSIVE GROWING PLANT

Flowers: Numerous, small, white or greenish flowers on a slender stalk in leaf axils and stem tips; bloom August-September.

Photos: K.Beyer

Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

- Walloon Lake
- Mud Lake (near M-119)
- Bear River
- Brown Creek (East Jordan)
- Tannery Creek (near US 31)
- Torch Lake

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Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council • www.watershedcouncil.org

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