
Knotweed

Fallopia japonica, *Reynoutria japonica*



This perennial plant grows to 10' in a dense stand, and is sometimes called "bamboo" because of its segmented stalks. The thickets release chemicals that suppress growth of other plants, shade out its neighbors, and hog nutrients.

- Leaves are 2-6" long, triangular when young, then somewhat rounded at their bases, with pointed tips, and stagger alternately along the stems.
 - Stems are thick and hollow, reddish-green early, then brown after frost, persisting through winter.
 - Flowers are clusters, small, and greenish-white along the stems from August-September.
 - Seeds are small, shiny and black, and are enclosed in papery, winged capsules. Reproduction is most often by pieces of stem or root. It can sprout from any stem node or root fragment.
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HOW TO CONTROL:

- Cut or mow the plant to the ground or pull up weekly June-fall. Fragments of the plant can take root, so dispose of materials in trash. Repeat for 5 years or more.
- Or, cut 2-3 times during the growing season to reduce its size. Then, if beyond 25' from water, spray 2% glyphosate or triclopyr in late August before bloom time. Follow-up as needed. Digging up Knotweed is not recommended because the root fragments then disperse quickly into new, dense stands.

NOTE: Herbicides are not effective during the growing season. Avoid using herbicide on leaves during flowering as bees are attracted to this plant.

Sources

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Maine Invasive Plants, bulletin #2511;

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/JapaneseKnotweedBCP.pdf>;

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/fallopia.htm

Controls

<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2511e/>;

Casco Bay Invasive Species Network, Winning the War on Weeds;

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/JapaneseKnotweedBCP.pdf>;

[Kings County, Wisconsin](#), link to several videos

