

## Himalayan knotweed

### *Polygonum polystachyum*

#### Description

Can cause photosensitivity in susceptible people.  
Can reduce availability of nutrients in the soil, competes with trees and can reduce shade along rivers and streams by displacing native, woody species.

#### Habit

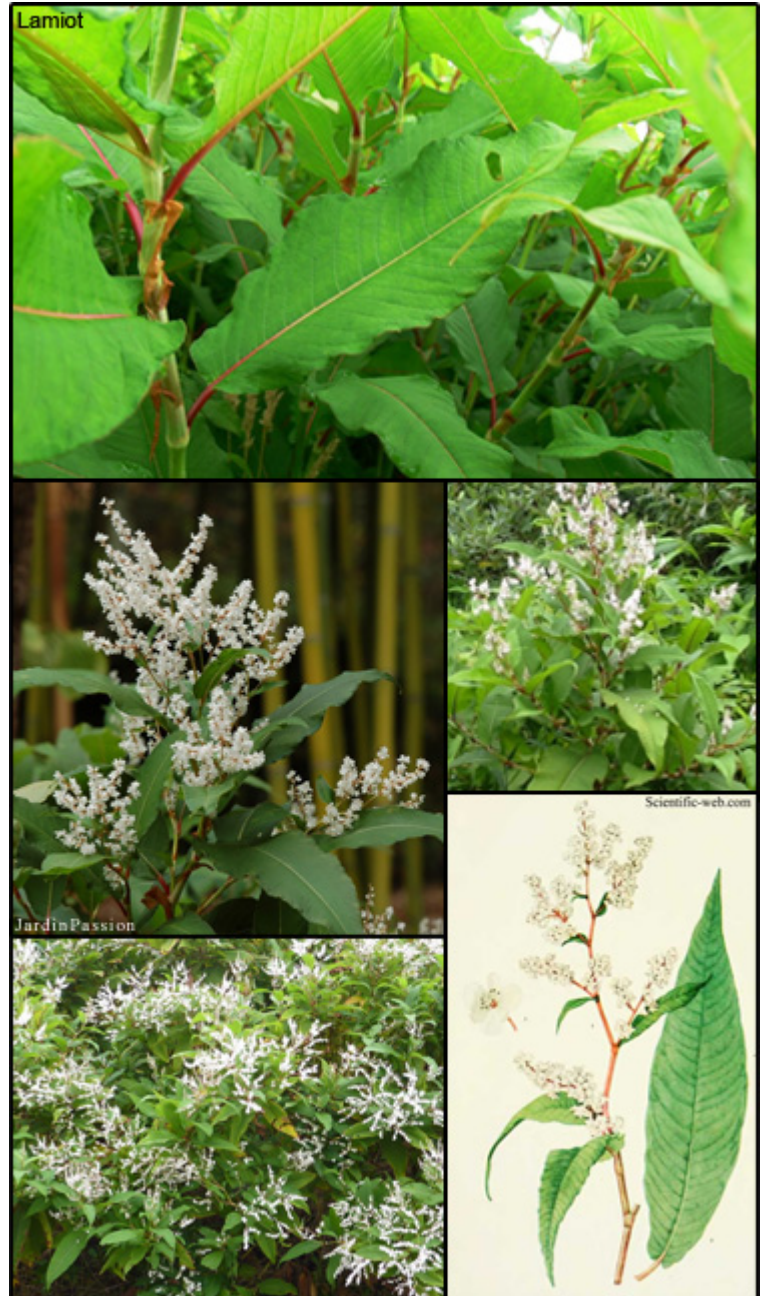
Clumping perennial with large leaves, hollow stems, and long creeping rhizomes. Recognized by its long slender leaves and can grow to 6 feet in height.

#### Leaves

Alternate, green, lanceolate, 4 to 8 inches long and 1 to 3 inches wide with flat or heart-shaped bases, long-pointed tips and slightly hairy margins. Upper leaf surfaces are glabrous or hairy, and lower leaf surfaces are hairy at least on the margins and veins.

#### Stems

Numerous, glabrous to densely hairy, ribbed,





red-brown in color, erect and branching. Basal leaves are absent. Stipules are fused around the stems to form sheaths that are red-brown, membranous and 1 to 4 cm long.

### **Flowers**

White to pink in color, fragrant, and 3 to 5 mm long. Sepals are oblong to obovate and 2.2 to 3.8 mm long.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Seeds lack wings or keels and are 3-sided, smooth, brown in color, 2.1 to 2.5 mm long, and 1.3 to 1.8 mm wide.

### **Habitat**

Native to Asia. Found on disturbed sites, roadsides, riparian and wetland areas.

### **Reproduction**

Vegetatively from rhizomes and by seed. Each node on the plant stock is able to produce roots and new plants. New plants can sprout from fragments as small as 1 inch.

### **Similar**

Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinensis*); Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum japonica*); Bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum xbohemica*)

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Mowing or cutting plant shoots is ineffective alone; however, mowing followed by herbicide treatments will provide some control. Must be repeated if infestation is large. Grubbing out small clumps when discovered can prevent new colonies from establishing. Rhizomes and fragments left in the ground, or nearby, can regenerate.



Midwest Invasive Species  
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### **Credits**

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