

Giant knotweed

Fallopia sachalinensis

Description

Hybridizes with Japanese knotweed and silver lace vine (*P. baldschuanicum*).

Habit

Shrub-like herbaceous perennial growing up to 4m (12 ft) each year before dying back to the ground; dead bamboo-like stalks persistent.

Leaves

Simple, alternate, large, 15-30 cm (6-12 in) long and 2/3 as wide with a shallow, heart-shaped base.

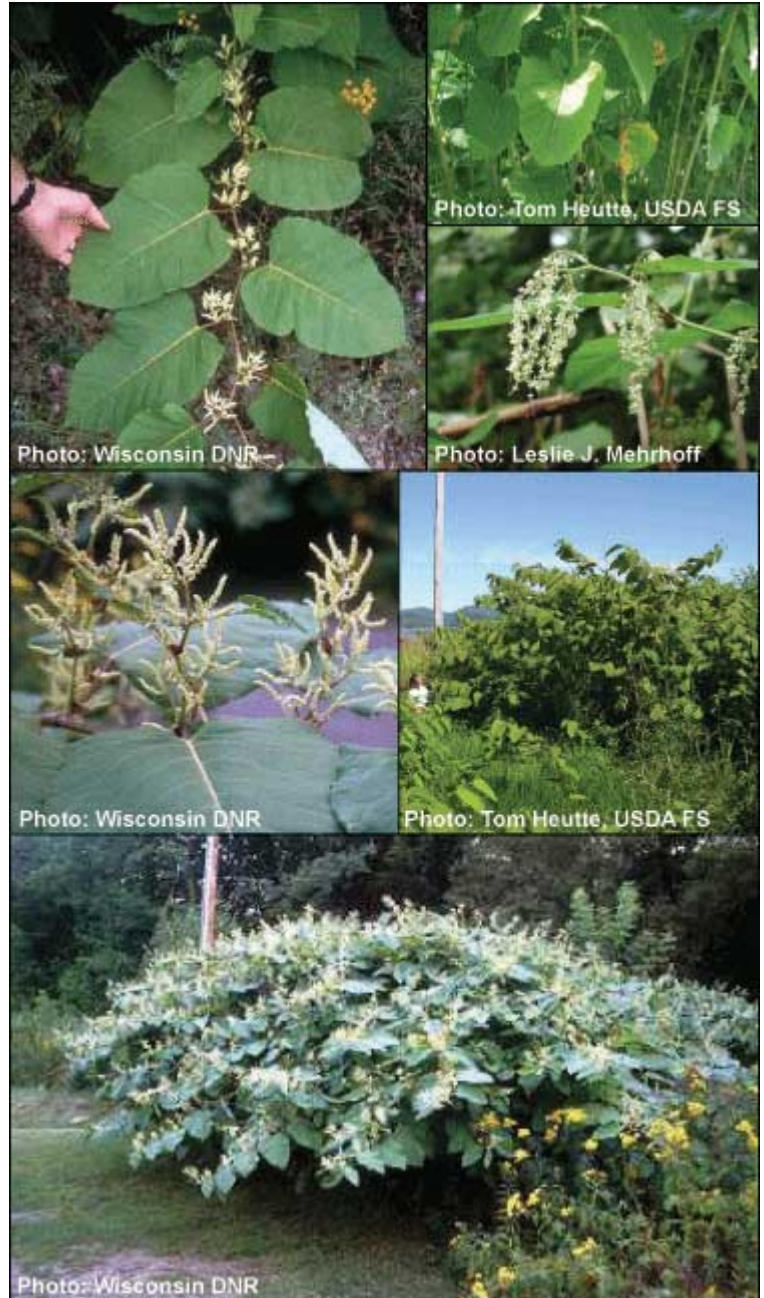
Stems

Upright; round; hollow with swollen nodes; resemble bamboo shoots.

Flowers

Sparse, greenish in color, borne on a slender stalk, arise from the leaf axils and stem tips; blooms August through September.

Fruits and Seeds





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

Habitat

Native to Asia. Found along roadsides, stream and river banks, wet depressions and woodland edges; shade intolerant.

Reproduction

Spreads through rhizomes, also by plant fragments that are transported by water or in fill; contributes pollen to related invasive species to produce viable seed.

Similar

Non-native Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is smaller (< 6 in long) and its leaves have a flat base, rather than rounded basal lobes.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor sunny open sites along paths, ditches and canals. 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. Foliar herbicide application may provide effective control. Cutting or spraying early in the season and then spraying later may be easiest as plants will still be short enough to spray efficiently. Wicking or injecting herbicide may be suitable for ecologically sensitive sites but is labor intensive. Follow-up required for years.

Credits

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