

Giant knotweed

Fallopia sachalinensis

Description

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

Habit

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

Leaves

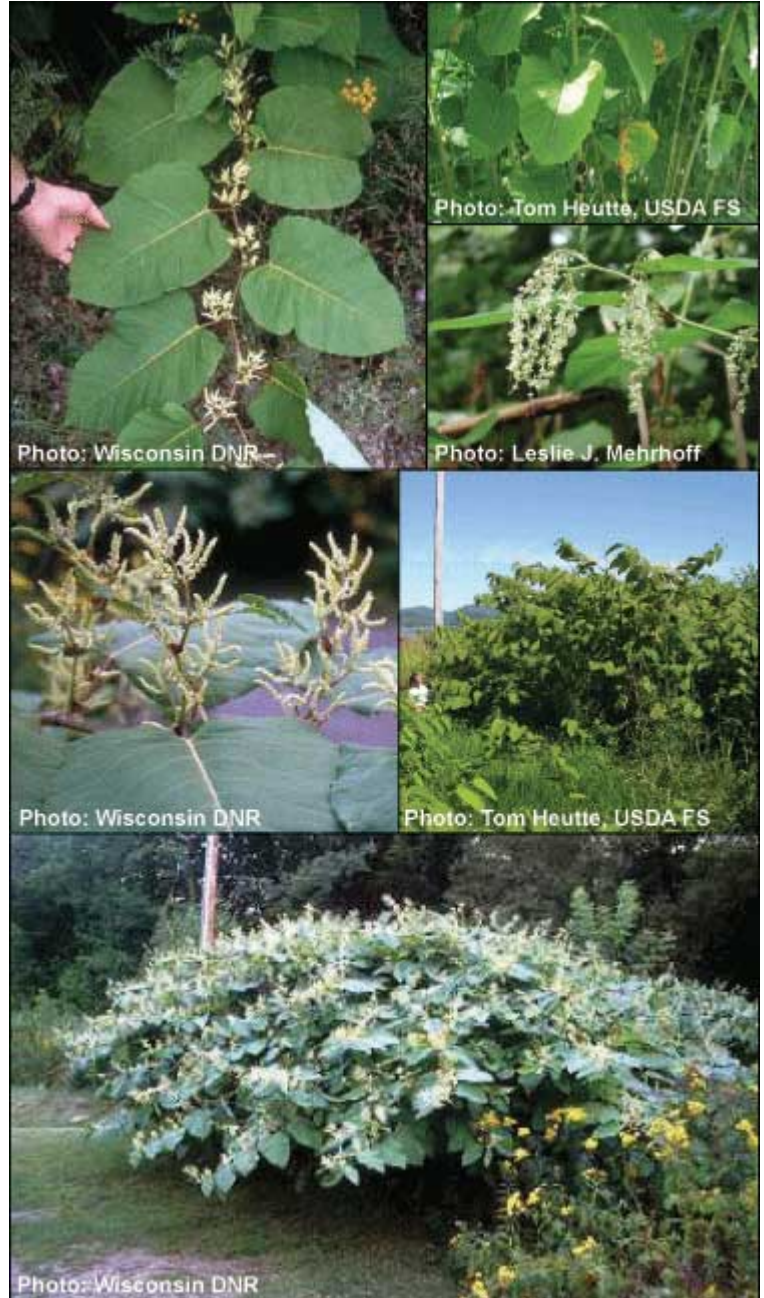
Simple, alternate, large, 15-30 cm (6-12 in) long and 2/3 as wide with a shallow, heart-shaped base.

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, 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 or fragments; can provide pollen to related species to produce viable hybrid 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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