

Invasive Species Alert

Giant Knotweed

Polygonum sachalinensis (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Perennial, herbaceous shrub that can grow over 12 feet high
- Hollow stalks are light green, smooth and swollen at the nodes, resembling bamboo
- Similar to Japanese knotweed, and the two plants may hybridize
- Flowers are arranged in spikes near the end of the stem are small, numerous, and greenish-white in color
- Flowers do not extend past the length of the leaves
- Flowers bloom in August and September in Michigan
- Giant knotweed leaves are 6-14 inches long, heart-shaped at the base and have fine hairs on the underside



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, University of Silesia, Bugwood.org

Habitat: Giant knotweed can be found in moist soils in sunny areas along roadsides, disturbed fields or vacant lots and along streams or river banks.

Native Range: Japan

U.S. Distribution: Areas of the northeast and northwest United States. Locations in Michigan's Upper and Northern Lower peninsulas

Local Concern: Giant knotweed spreads aggressively by roots (rhizomes) and cut or broken stems. It can form dense thickets along streambanks, actually increasing erosion potential and decreasing habitat value.

Report this species at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone