

Japanese Knotweed

(*Fallopia japonica*), (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

DESCRIPTION

Upright, shrublike herbaceous perennial, widely cultivated ornamental

Height: 3 to 6 feet high

Leaves: Normally about 6" long by 3 to 4" wide, broadly egg-shaped with pointed tips and squarish bases

Flowers: Minute greenish-white in branched sprays, blooms August-September

Fruit: Small, brown, triangular, 1/3" long, ripening 2 weeks after flowering



ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Spreads primarily by aggressive rhizomes that grow up to 60 feet long

Also spreads by wind-disbursed seeds and discarded cuttings

Spreads quickly to form dense thickets in a wide variety of adverse conditions but primarily sunny open areas like road edges and stream banks

Displaces native plants and reduces wildlife habitat and forage

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Aster novae-angliae New England Aster

Baptisia australis Blue False Indigo

Eupatorium maculatum Joe-Pye-Weed

CONTROL



Extremely difficult to eradicate large established stands

Mechanical: Dig out entire plant and all roots and runners, or cut at least 3 times a year for several years. Any remaining roots will resprout.

Chemical: Cut to the ground and immediately apply undiluted Roundup. Follow-up spray application required to control seedlings and resprouts. Spraying without cutting is generally not effective.