

Japanese knotweed

Reynoutria japonica

Overview

Japanese knotweed is an invasive, deciduous shrub-like perennial that is native to eastern Asia and was introduced in the late 1800s as an ornamental and for erosion control. It is now spread broadly throughout the midwestern, eastern, and western United States.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, UConn, Bugwood.org

Appearance

An upright, herbaceous shrub that can grow 10-13 ft (3-4 m) tall. The semi-woody stem is hollow with enlarged nodes.

Foliage is alternate, 3-6 in (7.6-15.2 cm) long, 3-4 in (7.6-10 cm) wide and broadly-ovate. Leaf tips are abruptly tapering to a point and the bases are squared-off.

Flowers occur in late summer, are small, greenish-white and develop in 2.5-6 in (6-15 cm) long upright panicles in the axils of the leaves. Plants are dioecious.

Fruit are papery with wings, containing shiny, black, three angled seeds. Reproduction also occurs vegetatively by spreading rhizomes.

Flowers



Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org



Joseph M. DiTomaso, UC - Davis, Bugwood.org

Hollow Stem



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Foliage



Steve Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Bugwood.org

Fruit



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More Info

Hybridizes with giant knotweed (*R. sachalinensis*) to produce Bohemian knotweed (*R. x bohemica*).