

# GIANT KNOTWEED

*Polygonum sachalinense*  
Polygonaceae, the buckwheat family  
Category: Control

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## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Giant knotweed is a highly invasive plant that can form monocultures, crowding out native species and decreasing biodiversity.
- It can alter riparian habitat by reducing understory regeneration and streambank stability, as well as disrupt soil nutrient cycling.
- It is very difficult and expensive to control once an infestation occurs.

### Description

- Perennial that can reach 12 feet tall and has long, creeping rhizomes reaching up to 18 feet long.
- Large, ovate leaves are alternate on the stem with a heart-shaped base and can reach up to 12 inches long. Leaves are larger than both Bohemian and Japanese knotweeds.
- Numerous, small, greenish-white flowers form showy, branching panicles borne in leaf axils.
- Seeds are glossy and brown to dark brown in color.

### Introduction and Movement

- Giant knotweed is native to Japan, Taiwan, eastern China, and Korea and was introduced as a garden ornamental.
- It can tolerate a wide range of soil types and inhabits moist, disturbed sites such as wetlands and riparian areas.
- The plant can easily spread by means of floating stem and rhizome fragments, improper disposal of garden materials, as a soil contaminant, and by hitching a ride on vehicles. Snow ploughs can also aid in dispersal along roadways.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Giant knotweed and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/107744>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



# GIANT KNOTWEED DISTRIBUTION MAP

