Fallopia japonica

Invasive to Maine

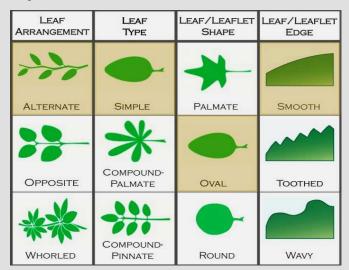
Japanese Knotweed, Bamboo

Upland Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

Leaves



Look for leaves that are large (up to 18 cm long and 12 cm wide) and oval. Sometimes the leaves are so wide that they look almost round or heart-shaped. The edges of the leaves are smooth.



Plant



Look for a thick bush that grows up to 3 m tall.

Stem



Look for stems that are hollow with swollen joints (like bamboo). The stems grow in a zig-zag pattern. The leaves grow from the points of the zig-zag.

Seasonal Change



In September and October look for small white flowers that grow in finger-like bunches. After November look for leaves and stems that are dead, but are still

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Similar Species

There are two different types of Japanese Knotweed in Maine that vary primarily in size. Though it is often called bamboo, Japanese Knotweed is actually a type of grass.

Fun Fact

Japanese Knotweed grows well in many places. It can even grow through asphalt and cement! It has a very strong root system. It was originally brought to the U.S. in the late 1800s to prevent erosion of river banks.



