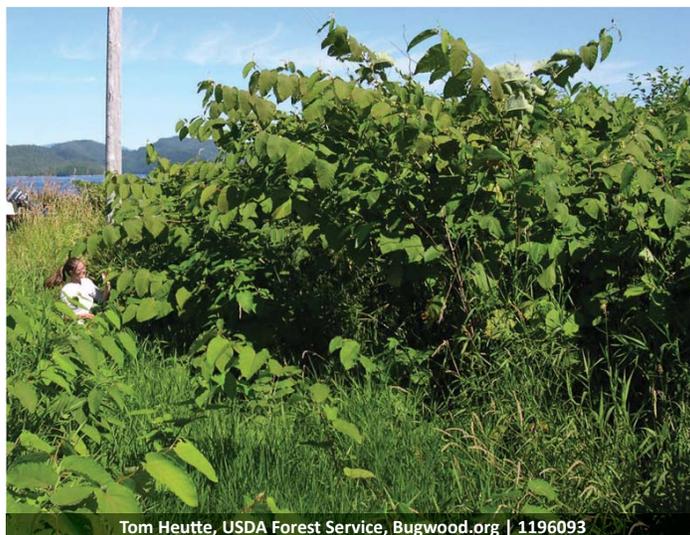


GIANT KNOTWEED

Fallopia sachalinensis

Status in Maine: localized



Tom Heutte, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org | 1196093

Description: Robust, perennial herb to 12' tall, commonly to 8'. **Leaves:** Simple, alternate, entire, longer than wide (6-12" long), tapering to the tip, and with a heart-shaped base. **Flowers:** Clusters of tiny white flowers arranged in spikes toward the ends of the stems, late summer in Maine. **Fruit/seeds:** Tiny (<math>< \frac{1}{4}</math>") with thin "wings" to enable wind and water dispersal. **Stem:** Straight, 1-2" diameter, round, hollow, with swollen nodes where leaves meet the stem. Dead, leafless stalks persist through winter. **Root:** Spreading horizontal rhizomes.

Native range: Eastern Asia. **How arrived in U.S.:** Introduced to North America as an ornamental.

Reproduction: Mostly by fragments of living stem or rhizome. Fertile seeds are sometimes produced, and all seed should be treated as potentially viable. Can sprout from any stem node or rhizome fragment.

Habitat: Disturbed sites, roadsides, agricultural areas, stream banks, floodplains, and logging roads and landings. Shade intolerant.

Similar native species: None in our area.

Similar non-native species: Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is typically shorter than giant knotweed and has smaller leaves with flat bases that are almost as wide as long. The two species hybridize (*Fallopia x bohemica*) and can back-cross. Japanese knotweed and the hybrid are also invasive.



GIANT KNOTWEED

Control methods: New patches (<20 stems) can be cut or dug repeatedly throughout the growing season, as often as once/week, for several years until roots are exhausted. Great care must be taken to dispose or burn the rhizomes as any fragment can start a new plant. Larger patches cannot be controlled manually without a persistent, reliable labor source. Smothering with heavy black landscaping cloth, old carpet, or erosion control fabric can be successful but requires biweekly maintenance and must be repeated for up to 10 years. Herbicides are effective. ***Special rules apply to herbicide use in or near wetlands and waterbodies - see the section in the back of this guide titled "Use of Herbicides to Control Invasive Plants in or Near Wetlands and Waterbodies."*** For small patches, use stem injection or cut-drip applications of glyphosate. Be sure to dispose of cut stems carefully. For large patches, cut or mow when plants are 3' tall, then apply glyphosate as foliar spray when plants have re-grown to 3-5' tall later in the same growing season, or apply to uncut, mature stems just before flowering. Avoid application of foliar herbicide during flowering as bees are attracted to this species. Follow-up will be needed in almost all circumstances.

