

Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*)

Family name: Polygonum (*Polygonaceae*)

Native range: Asia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Perennial, bamboo-like shrub
- Over 12' tall
- Stems hollow and jointed with a zig-zag pattern
- Stems light green with reddish joints



Leaves:

- Alternate, heart-shaped
- Toothless
- Often over 1' long
- Stems jointed with a zig-zag pattern



Flowers:

- Greenish to creamy white
- Individual flowers small
- Borne on short shoots in leaf axils
- Blooms July-October

Fruit:

- Contained within a papery, 3-sided sheath



Habitat:

- Meadow, roadside, thicket, garden
- Prefers drier soils

Commercial availability: Not found

Look-alikes:

Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

- Invasive perennial
- Leaves oval and occasionally heart-shaped, 3"-6" long and 2"-5" wide
- Showier flower clusters than giant knotweed
- Riparian areas, roadsides, gardens
- Prefers moist areas

Bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum x bohemicum*)

- Invasive perennial, hybrid between giant and Japanese knotweed
- No known populations in NJ
- Leaves oval to heart-shaped
- Flowers about the same length as leaves
- Riparian areas, roadsides, gardens
- Prefers moist areas



Left to right:
Giant knotweed
Bohemian knotweed
Japanese knotweed
Leaves and flowers