

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Polygonum cuspidatum



Description: Japanese knotweed is a perennial herb with a shrub-like form grows 3-9 feet. Stems are hollow and bamboo-like with swollen leaf joints. Leaves are 6 inches long and 3-4 inches wide with a leaf base straight across to bluntly right angled. Flowers are white to pink and densely crowded on erect stalks.



Native range: Eastern Asia (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pocu1.htm>)



Ecological threat: This plant threatens riparian corridors, fens, springs, ravines, forests and streamsides. It spreads quickly to form dense thickets that exclude native vegetation and greatly alter natural ecosystems. It poses a significant threat to riparian areas because of its ability to survive severe floods and rapidly colonize scoured shores and islands.

Current North American Range: Japanese knotweed is currently observed throughout all of the Midwest except for western Iowa.

Current Midwest general distribution, including southern Ontario Not Known Isolated Locally Abundant Widespread

Early Detection and Rapid Response Can Help Stop the Spread!

JAPANESE KNOTWEED, *Polygonum cuspidatum*

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pocu1.htm>)

Manual or Mechanical methods

Grubbing is effective for small initial populations or environmentally sensitive areas where herbicides cannot be used. Using a pulaski or similar digging tool, remove the entire plant including all roots and runners. Juvenile plants can be hand pulled depending on soil conditions and root development. Any portions of the root system not removed will potentially resprout. All plant parts (including mature fruit) should be bagged and disposed of in a trash dumpster to prevent reestablishment.

Chemical methods

Cut stem application

Use this method in areas where plants are established within or around non-target plants or where vines have grown into the canopy. This treatment remains effective at low temperatures as long as the ground is not frozen. Cut the stem about 2 inches above ground level. Immediately apply a 25% solution of glyphosate (e.g., Roundup®, or use Rodeo® if applying in or near wetland areas) or triclopyr (e.g., Garlon) and water to the cross-section of the stem. A subsequent foliar application of glyphosate may be required to control new seedlings and resprouts.

Foliar application

Use this method to control large populations. It may be necessary to precede foliar applications with stump treatments to reduce the risk of damaging non-target species. Apply a 2% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr and water to thoroughly wet all foliage. Do not apply so heavily that herbicide will drip off leaves. A 0.5% non-ionic surfactant is recommended in order to penetrate the leaf cuticle, and ambient air temperature should be above 65 °F.

For more information on control and management of this species, please visit the following Web sites: www.usda.plants.gov, www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm, tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/control.html, dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.htm, www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml, <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pope1.htm>

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