

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

[*Fallopia japonica* (Houtt.) Ronse Decraene;
Polygonum cuspidatum Sieb. & Zucc.;
Reynoutria japonica Houtt.]

POCU6



UGA1237056

Habit: Perennial, herbaceous shrub 3 m (10 ft) or taller;^{8,20,21,7} shoots survive one season; rhizomes survive decades; circular clonal stands formed in native habitat, senescing centrally.¹

Reproduction: Primarily vegetatively via rhizome or shoot fragments;^{4,19,7,3} by seed,^{8,20,6,7} dioecious;^{8,6} or gynodioecious;^{3,7} viable, fertile hybrid (*F. x bohémica*) result of cross with *F. sachalinensis* (also non-native and invasive).^{11,3}

Leaves: Simple and alternate; broadly ovate, 8-15 cm long, 5-12 cm wide (3 $\frac{1}{8}$ -6 in x 2-4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in), with abruptly pointed tip, truncate base;^{8,6} stipule (ocrea), a tubular, membranous sheath.^{6,3}

Stems: Round, sometimes ridged,⁸ glaucous, often mottled;⁶ hollow internodes⁷ with swollen nodes.^{20,6}

Flowers: Mid-late summer; small (2-3 mm or $\frac{1}{8}$ in),³ greenish-white,^{20,8,6} 1,000s/plant;⁷ narrow inflorescences at middle/upper nodes;^{20,8,6} fly and bee pollinated; copious nectar,³ from which bees produce a dark, quality honey.^{2,17}

Fruits/Seeds: Fruits 3-winged, 8-9 mm or $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ in; seeds (3-4 mm or $\frac{1}{8}$ in) dark, glossy;^{8,20,6} germination rate 61-95% in light and room temperature; no apparent cold stratification requirement;⁷ wind,¹³ possibly water dispersed (like rhizome and shoot fragments); at least one bird species eats the seeds.³

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Habitat: Native to Asia; introduced to the U.S. in the mid-late 1800s;⁷ disturbed and riparian areas, roadsides, woodlands; shade intolerant;³ native substrate volcanic¹⁴ with low pH; grows in a variety of pH levels and soil types; preference for wet habitats;³ seedling survival dependent on water; adults tolerate drier conditions;¹³ USDA hardiness zones 4-8.⁵

Comments: Tetraploid, hexaploid, or octoploid;¹² polyploidy may increase genetic diversity;¹⁰ translocates N to radial clones until clones take up own N;¹ most N in roots if N is limiting;⁹ C remobilized to rhizomes prior to shoot senescence;¹⁸ treatment for skin disorders, hepatitis, inflammations, natural estrogen substitute;¹⁵ exudes large quantity of guttation fluid;¹⁶ grazed by sheep, cattle, horses; *F. japonica* var. *compactum* also escapes.³

Similar Native Species: Virginia knotweed (*P. virginianum*); not a shrub; ocreae with bristles; inflorescence a slender spike.^{8,20}