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JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Reynoutria japonica

var. *japonica*

Origin: Eastern Asia
(Japan, China, Korea)

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

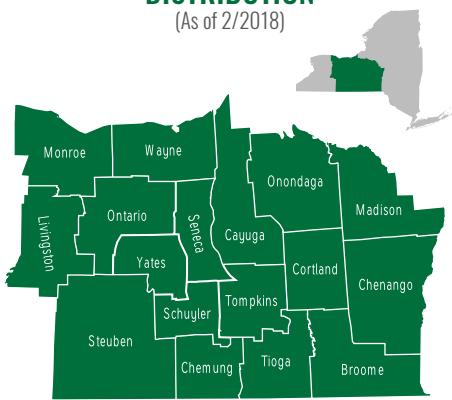
Very High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical
Physical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org

Japanese knotweed is a tall, shrubby, herbaceous perennial that forms dense patches up to 3 m tall. Stems are hollow and ‘bamboo-like’, with purple speckles. Leaves are broadly triangular in shape, about 15 cm long and 7-12 cm wide, coming to a sharply pointed tip. They emerge alternately from the swollen internodes, producing a ‘zig-zag’ appearance. In late summer, Japanese knotweed produces small, creamy white flowers in spikes up to 10 cm in length.

HABITAT

This species can tolerate a wide range of light conditions, temperatures, nutrients, and other environmental conditions. It is commonly found along streams and rivers, in low-lying areas, and in disturbed areas.

THREAT

This species spreads rapidly, forming dense populations that crowd and shade out native vegetation resulting in reduced species diversity, altered ecosystems, and negatively impacted wildlife habitat. Japanese knotweed grows aggressively in riparian and previously disturbed areas and can have detrimental effects on infrastructure.

MANAGEMENT

Rhizomes must be controlled in order to manage Japanese knotweed populations. Manual removal of established plants is usually ineffective due to the easily fragmented rhizomes. A range of chemical control methods, used alone or in conjunction with cutting, have been proven effective on smaller infestations, including foliar spray, cut-and-wipe, and stem injection. If plant materials are to be removed from the site, they should be bagged and disposed of; any root fragment or stem fragment containing an internode can start a new plant. Treatment of large infestations rarely results in the eradication of knotweed from the site, but can suppress the population and prevent spread.



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REFERENCE - Japanese Knotweed. Michigan Department of Natural Resources. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/knotweed_BCP_372280_7.pdf November 10, 2017