

Polygonum cuspidatum

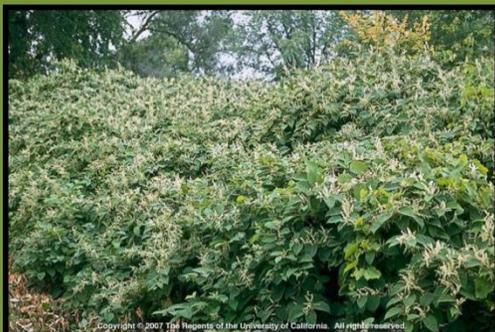
Japanese Knotweed

Other common names:

Japanese bamboo, fleece flower

Polygonaceae, the buckwheat family

Category: CONTROL



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Perennial; up to 8 feet tall
- Coarse foliage, hollow stems, and creeping roots
- Leaves are large, broad, ovate, and truncate (squared) to tapered at the base
- Leaves alternate on the stem and are zig-zagged
- stems are reddish-purple-mottled, swollen at nodes, and have thin papery sheaths
- Flowers are greenish-white to cream, borne in plume-like clusters in axils, and found at end of stems

Background

- Native to Japan, Taiwan, eastern China, and Korea; introduced as ornamentals
- Inhabits disturbed moist areas, riparian areas, wetland areas, and rights-of-way
- Reproduces vegetatively from rhizomes, rhizome fragments, stem fragments, and seed; forms dense colonies

Photo Credit:

J.M DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California

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