

Polygonum sachalinense

Giant Knotweed

Other common names:

elephant ear bamboo, Sakhalin knotweed

Polygonaceae, the buckwheat family

Category: CONTROL



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Perennial; grows up to 12 feet tall
- Coarse foliage, hollow stems, and creeping roots
- Very large, ovate leaves that grow to 12 inches long; alternate on the stem, and heart-shaped (cordate) at leaf base
- Flowers are greenish-white (male) and white (female); borne in leaf axils

Background

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

Photo Credit:

Jan Samanek, State Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org

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