

Japanese Knotweed Identification

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New growth in spring – bright red or purple, furled triangular leaves



Re-growth from cut stems



Mature leaves are alternately arranged spade or heart shaped leaves emerging from nodes along stem. Lower leaves fall as they grow, showing a bamboo-like stem. Stems are jointed and hollow with red/purple nodes where leaves attach (and are otherwise smooth, bright green, often with darker spots). Japanese knotweed leaves are up to 6" long, squared leaf base. Giant/hybrid leaves are up to 12" in length and have a rounded leaf base.



Japanese knotweed flowers in late summer. Flowers are white/pale green, and are upright fingerlike flower clusters (5 petals) that sprout from nodes.



The monoculture (dense thicket) excludes nearly all other vegetation.



Leaves turn yellow in the fall and die back leaving brown stalks.



Old stalks show a yellow/brownish tinge late in the fall.



In the spring, new growth unfurls amongst last year's brown stalks.

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