

Invasive Species Alert

GIANT KNOTWEED

(POLYGONUM SACHALINENSIS OR FALLOPIA SACHALINENSIS)

DETECTED IN MICHIGAN

IDENTIFICATION:

- Perennial, herbaceous shrub that can grow over 12 feet high.
- Hollow stalks are light green, smooth and swollen at the nodes, resembling bamboo.
- Similar to Japanese knotweed, and the two plants may hybridize.
- Flowers are arranged in spikes near the end of the stem are small, numerous and greenish-white in color.
- Flowers do not extend past the length of the leaves.
- Flowers bloom in August and September in Michigan.
- Giant knotweed leaves are 6-14 inches long, heart-shaped at the base and have fine hairs on the underside.



HABITAT: Giant knotweed can be found in moist soils in sunny areas along roadsides, disturbed fields or vacant lots and along streams or river banks.

NATIVE RANGE: Japan.

U.S. DISTRIBUTION: Areas of the northeast and northwest United States. Locations in Michigan's Upper and Northern Lower peninsulas.



LOCAL CONCERN: Giant knotweed spreads aggressively by roots (rhizomes) and cut or broken stems. It can form dense thickets along streambanks, actually increasing erosion potential and decreasing habitat value.

REPORT THIS SPECIES: Visit [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone.

Photos courtesy of Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org (top) and Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, University of Silesia, Bugwood.org (bottom).