

# Invasive Species Alert

## JAPANESE KNOTWEED

(FALLOPIA JAPONICA)

### PROHIBITED IN MICHIGAN

#### IDENTIFICATION:

- Perennial, herbaceous shrub that can grow from 3-10 feet high.
- Hollow stalks are persistent through winter, looks similar to bamboo.
- Stems have a fine white coating that rubs off easily.
- Flowers arranged in spikes near the end of the stem are small, numerous, and creamy white in color.
- Flowers bloom in August and September in Michigan.



**HABITAT:** Japanese knotweed can be found along roadsides, wetlands, wet depression, woodland edges and stream or river banks. Full sun conditions are preferable, although this plant can tolerate some shade and a wide range of soil and moisture conditions.

**NATIVE RANGE:** Asia.

**U.S. DISTRIBUTION:** Japanese knotweed has been introduced to most of the contiguous U.S.; Florida, Alabama, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming and North Dakota are the exceptions.



**MICHIGAN DISTRIBUTION:** Widespread and established in Michigan.

**LOCAL CONCERN:** Japanese knotweed grows very aggressively in disturbed areas. It excludes native plants by light limitation, nutrient cycling alterations and allelopathy (releasing toxic or inhibiting chemicals to suppress the growth of potential competitor plant species).

**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 Jan Samanek, State Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org (top) and Randy Westbrook, Invasive Plant Control Inc., Bugwood.org (bottom).