

Fallopia sachalinensis

Giant Knotweed

Invasive to Maine

Upland
Streams and Riverbanks, Roadsides

Leaves



VS user gbh



Look for leaves 15-40 cm (much bigger than a hand) that are an elongated heart shape with smooth edges. Look on undersides of young leaves for short, thin, light-colored hairs growing from the raised veins.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



VS user gbh



These plants grow 2-5 m tall. That means they can grow over twice as tall as the average NBA basketball player (average player is 2 m or 6'7")!

Stem



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Look for zig-zag stems with very few branches. Leaves are alternately arranged on the stems. *F. sachalinensis* branches less than the similar *F. japonica*.

Seasonal Change



Les Mehrhoff, IPANE



In the early fall look for clusters of small, white flowers that are generally shorter than the leaf just below.

Similar Species

This plant is similar to Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). However, giant knotweed has larger leaves and when they are in bloom its flower clusters will be smaller than its leaves.

Did You Know?

Giant knotweed is a bicoastal invasive species. It has already spread throughout the western coastal states and all along the eastern seaboard north of South Carolina up to Newfoundland!

Researched and created by Ruthie Hawley

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.



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