

# Fallopia japonica

Invasive to Maine

Japanese Knotweed,  
Bamboo

Upland  
Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

## Leaves



David J. Moorhead, Univ. of Ga., [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)

Look for leaves that are large (up to 18 cm long and 12 cm wide) and oval. Sometimes the leaves are so wide that they look almost round or heart-shaped. The edges of the leaves are smooth.

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

## Seasonal Change



Jenn Grieser, NYC DEP, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

In Sept. and Oct. look for small white flowers that grow in finger-like bunches. After Nov. look for dead stems that are still standing.

## Plant



Randy Westbrook, USGS, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

Look for a thick bush that grows up to 3 m tall.

## Stem



Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)

Look for stems that are hollow with swollen joints (like bamboo). The stems grow in a zig-zag pattern. The leaves grow from the points of the zig-zag.

## Similar Species

There are two different types of Japanese Knotweed in Maine that vary primarily in size. Though it is often called bamboo, Japanese Knotweed is actually a type of grass.

## Did You Know?

Japanese Knotweed grows well in many places. It can even grow through asphalt and cement! It has a very strong root system. It was originally brought to the U.S. in the late 1800s to prevent erosion of river banks.

Researched and created by Nicole Stephens

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