Fallopia sachalinensis

Giant Knotweed

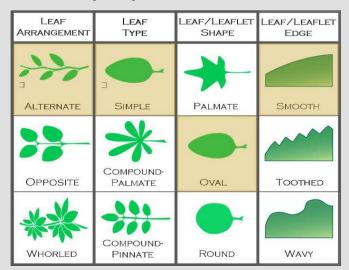
Invasive to Maine

Upland Streams and Riverbanks, Roadsides

Leaves



Look for leaves15-40 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.



Plant



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



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



In the early fall look for clusters of small, white flowers that 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!



