

Fallopia japonica

Invasive to Maine

Japanese Knotweed,
Bamboo













Upland
Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

Leaves



VS user 51JD71, Massabesic Middle School

Look for leaves that are large (up to 18 cm long and 12 cm wide) and spade shaped with an abrupt narrowed leaf tip and smooth edges. The leaves will be alternately arranged with no hairs on the underside.

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

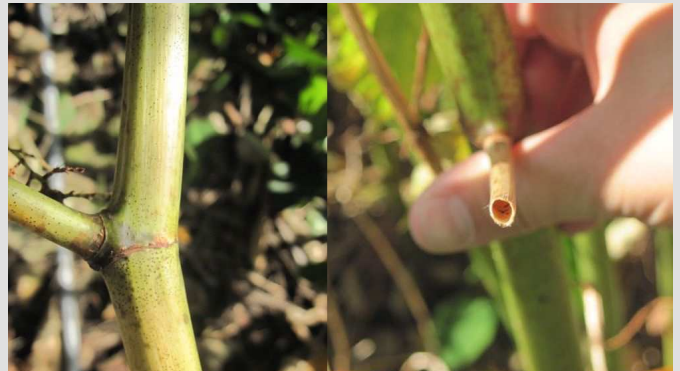
Plant



VS user 51JD71, Massabesic Middle School

Look for a thick bush that grows up to 3 m tall. The stems grow in a zig-zag pattern. The leaves grow from the points of the zig-zag.

Stem



VS user potassium, James F. Doughty School

Look for stems that are hollow with swollen joints (like bamboo) and have many branches.

Seasonal Change



VS user Shamcd16, Madawaska Middle School

In Sept. and Oct. look for small white flowers that grow in finger-like bunches that are generally longer than the leaf below. After Nov. look for standing dead stems.

Similar Species

There are two different types of Japanese knotweed in Maine that vary primarily in size. The species similar to Fallopia japonica is Fallopia sachalinensis, or giant knotweed. Giant knotweed leaves are heart-shaped and much larger than Japanese knotweed.

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.