

# Fallopia japonica

Japanese Knotweed,  
Bamboo

Invasive to Maine

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

## 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.

## Seasonal Change



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



In September and October look for small white flowers that grow in finger-like bunches. After November look for leaves and stems that are dead, but are still

[www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org)

## 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.

## Fun Fact

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.