



Asian knotweed

(*Reynoutria* spp.)

Originated in Eastern Asia (southern and maritime regions) and in Northern Japan (Sakhalin Island). Introduced in the 1800s for ornamentation, forage, honey making and soil stabilisation.

Description

- Dioecious species that flowers in the fall
- Perennial, herbaceous plants, very large (up to 4 metres high), forming bushes
- Aerial stalks are strong, hollow, green in colour or spotted dark red depending on the species
- Leaves with smooth edges, alternating, with a stipule around nodes along the stalk and, depending on the species:
 - an oval to triangular or even cordate shape
 - a cut-off, straight or rounded base
 - smooth veins or with hairs
- Numerous small flowers that can be white, greenish or reddish, in clusters
- Strong rhizomes, up to 15 to 20 metres long and 2 to 7 metres deep
- Adventitious roots, sprouting from the rhizomes

Ecology and reproduction

- Preferred habitats include sunny to somewhat shady environments, humid atmosphere, drained or slightly moist soil:
 - alluvial environments impacted by human activities, near rivers
 - dryer environments, e.g. idle land, roadsides
- Asexual reproduction, primarily via rhizome fragments and stalk cuttings at nodes
- The two species and their hybrid are generally sterile in Europe

Documentation

- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. (coord.) 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.
- FCBN. Fact sheets on Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed, 4 pp. http://www.centrederessourcesloirenature.com/mediatheque/especes_inv_a/fiches_FCBN/Fiche%20-%20Reynoutria-japonica-sr.pdf; http://www.centrederessourcesloirenature.com/mediatheque/especes_inv_a/fiches_FCBN/Fiche%20-Reynoutria-sachalinensis_sr.pdf
- Artois-Picardie water agency, 2002. Fact sheets on animal and plant species likely to proliferate in the Artois-Picardie basin. Artois-Picardie water agency, 38 pp.
- United Kingdom Environmental Agency. 2006. Managing Japanese knotweed on development sites: the knotweed code of practice. United Kingdom Environmental Agency, Bristol. 72 pp.

Author: Emilie Mazaubert, Irstea

Classification

Order	Polygonale
Family	<i>Polygonaceae</i>
Genus	<i>Reynoutria</i> (Houtt, 1777)



© Emilie Mazaubert



© Nicolas Poulet



© Alain Dutartre



© Alain Dutartre

1. Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*).
2. Giant knotweed (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*).
3. Bohemian knotweed (*Reynoutria x bohemica*), a hybrid of the two other species.
4. River banks colonised by knotweed.

