FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils

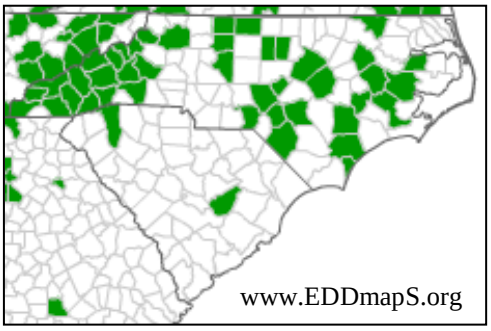
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *POLYGONUM CUSPIDATIUM*
COMMON NAME: JAPANESE KNOTWEED
KNOWN TO OCCUR IN SC AND NC

WHAT IS JAPANESE KNOTWEED?

Plant Type: Upright, semi-woody shrub with hollow stems and enlarged nodes.
Form/Size: Dense thickets can grow to 10 feet.

Leaves: Alternate, broadly ovate to triangular, pointed at tip, 6 in. long, 3-4 in. wide.
Flowers: Greenish-white in long panicles at leaf axils, dioecious, bloom late summer.
Fruit: small and winged, with 1/10 in. long, triangular, shiny seeds.

Means of Spread: Vegetative growth via long, stout rhizomes and through seed production. Seeds dispersed by wind, water, as a contaminant in fill dirt and on soles of shoes.
Family: Polygonaceae



WHERE DID JAPANESE KNOTWEED COME FROM?

Origin: Eastern Asia
Date of Introduction: Late 1800s.
Reason: As an ornamental, for landscape screen, and erosion control.

WHERE AM I LIKELY TO FIND JAPANESE KNOTWEED?

Habitat Type: Wetlands, along streams and rivers, ditches, utility right-of-ways, old home sites; can tolerate shade, high salinity, high temperatures, and drought. Can escape gardens to invade undisturbed natural areas.
Distribution in SC: all regions (reports in Greenville and Clarendon Counties)
Distribution in NC: all regions

WHY IS JAPANESE KNOTWEED A PROBLEM?

Environment: - Able to quickly establish, displacing and shading native plants, thus reducing diversity and altering wildlife habitat structure.

-Provides no wildlife value
-Threat to riparian areas where it can survive severe floods and recolonize scoured banks and islands to form persistent thickets.
Economy: -Control methods are expensive and difficult
- Potential agricultural losses (found as a crop weed in Missouri)
- In Europe, causes damage to buildings, roads, hard surfaces and infrastructure; clogs riparian systems and damages flood control structures.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND JAPANESE KNOTWEED?

Report: take a photo, report the observation to EDDMapS: http://www.se-eppc.org/ (location, size of infestation, etc.). ***In SC:*** Send digital photo to John Nelson at the USC Herbarium: plantman@herbarium.org for verification.

Control: Hand or mechanically pull young plants and small populations removing all roots and runners; cut-stem (in sensitive areas) and foliar (large patches) chemical application effective in larger populations. Address early infestations quickly as large stands are nearly impossible to eradicate.
Disposal: Japanese knotweed can easily sprout from vegetative parts or seeds so careful disposal is important. All plant parts (including mature fruit) should be bagged and disposed of in a trash dumpster.

CURRENT LISTINGS:

SC-EPPC: Severe Threat/Shrub
NC-EPPC/NCNPS: Severe Threat
NCDOT: Threat/Herbaceous plant
GA-EPPC: Category 1 Alert
State Noxious Weed in AL, CA, MA, NH, OR, VE, WA

LEARN MORE!

- **Invasive.org** (images)**:** **http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3414**
- **US Forest Service:** **http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/japanese-knotweed.pdf**
- **Plant Conservation Alliance:** **http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pocu1.htm**
- **The Nature Conservancy Global Invasive Species Team:** **http://wiki.bugwood.org/Polygonum_cuspidatum**
- **Bugwood:** **http://www.invasiveplants.net/biologicalcontrol/12Knotweed.html**

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