

DRAFT

Knotweed Giant, Japanese, Bohemian *Polygonum Cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc.



Also known as Fleece flower, Mexican bamboo, Elephant ear bamboo,

Quick ID:

- ◆ Members of the buckwheat family⁶ (Polygonaceae)
- ◆ A shrub-like perennial that originated from Asia
- ◆ Grows to heights in excess of 10 feet
- ◆ Stems are smooth & bamboo-like and stout
- ◆ Stems are hollow, but may be water-filled depending upon soil moisture and time of year

Habitat:

- ◆ Found in natural areas, parks, gravel bars and along riverbeds and stream banks, rights-of way, and roadsides. It is also found in riparian areas, and upland sites.

How It Got Here:

- ◆ Originated from Asia and spread west for the last few hundred years.
- ◆ Spreading primarily by fragmentation, and creating deep well established root structure, the species has managed to dominate many native riparian ecosystems.

Reasons for Concern:

- ◆ Can invade and thrive in a variety of habitats.
- ◆ Knotweed has evolved characterizes that aid the plant in exploiting riparian areas
- ◆ Knotweed reproduces through seeds, rhizomes, and sprouting from stem pieces which can move quickly down a riverbed and create new infestations.