

Japanese Knotweed

Polygonum cuspidatum

Invasive Species in MA

Found in poor quality soil, such as waste areas. Tolerant of shade and flooding.



- Introduced as erosion control and ornamental in the late 1800s
- Deciduous shrub reaching 10-15 ft tall
- Large, ovate leaves with small green and white seasonal flowers and small, triangular seeds
- Extensive root system extends up to 65 ft from main stem

What makes it invasive?

- Knotweed often establishes itself in open areas without native plants, and once established, is extraordinarily difficult to remove.
- It is more resilient than native plants to salinity, shade, drought, and pH.

Learn more:



Placard posted as a Girl Scout Gold Award project by Anastasia Brunker, 2024.