

# Fallopia japonica

## COMMON NAME

Japanese knotweed

## SYNONYMS

Reynoutria japonica, Polygonum cuspidatum

## FAMILY

Polygonaceae

## AUTHORITY

Fallopia japonica (Houtt.) Ronse Decr.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomatous herb forming large clumps; stems usu. 1~2m tall, approx. 1.5cm diam. at the woody base, generally zig-zagging, glabrous, glaucous to reddish. Petiole 1~5.5 cm long, mostly dark crimson, channelled above, with a single pit at base on dorsal side. Lamina 8~23 x 5~17cm (infl. leaves often smaller and more elongated), broad-ovate, glaucescent below, with < 14 pairs of lateral veins, often minutely puberulent on veins near base above, otherwise glabrous, undulate; base usu. truncate, sometimes shallowly subcordate, esp. on vegetative shoots; apex cuspidate. Ochreae to around 3cm long, deciduous, glabrous. Panicles with branches clustered to 6cm long, > petioles, erect or suberect, densely puberulent. Bracts small, glabrous or puberulent, cuspidate or cuspidate-acuminate. Pedicels > bracts, glabrous, jointed in lower half. Perianth 1.5~2.5mm long at antithesis (excl. decurrent base), white; segments obovate to oblong-obovate, keeled. Filaments to 2mm long. Stigmas fimbriate. Valves of fruit 7~11mm long (incl. broad wing); apex notched. Nut 2.5~3mm long, obtusely angled, glossy brown. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

## FLOWERING

December, January, February, March

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## YEAR NATURALISED

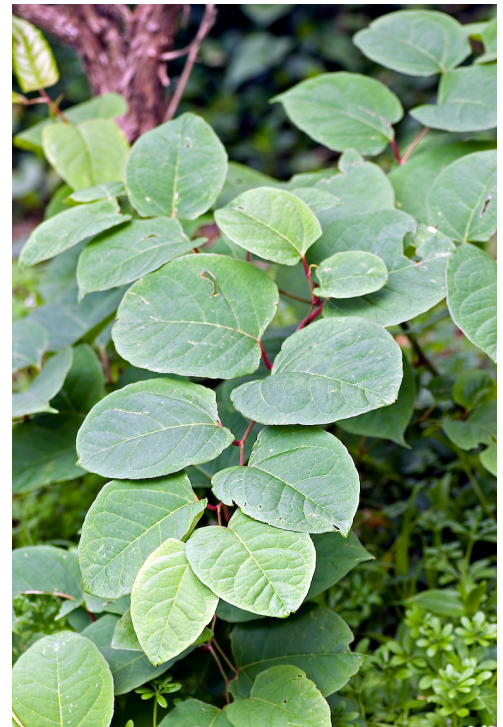
1935

## ORIGIN

Japan

## ETYMOLOGY

**japonica**: Of Japan



Kaiwharawhara Stream, Wellington.  
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## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS

Perennial.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fallopia-japonica/>