



## Weed of the Month for July 2017

### Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

**Origin:** Japan

**Interesting Fact:** Japanese Knotweed is very persistent once established and has been known to grow through asphalt and building foundations.

**Description:** Japanese Knotweed is a perennial herbaceous plant that can grow up to 10 ft. tall and has large alternate leaves, small white/pink flowers in long flowering heads, and teardrop-shaped fruits.

**Defining characteristics:**

- Large, alternate, spade-shaped leaves with smooth edges
- Bamboo like stem with many joints
- Spikes of small white/pink flowers
- Lots of teardrop shaped seeds



(Left image) The large leaves and many seeds of Japanese Knotweed.

(Center image) Close up of its swollen stem.

(Right image) The small white spikes of flowers



**Habitat:** Found along wood edges, ditches, riparian areas, and roadsides.

A large patch of Japanese Knotweed outside of Bicknell.



**Ecological threat:** Japanese Knotweed can form very dense, tall stands, which inhibit native species. Because it produces so much biomass, Japanese can alter habitats, particularly riparian and wetland ones. In addition, it has multiple mechanisms for spreading, including by rhizome, stem, or seed.

**Control Methods:**

- Manual: Small individuals can be dug up, but you have to get the whole rhizome and let it thoroughly dry out in the sun before disposing or composting. Cutting stems can be used to exhaust the rhizome, but this method can take multiple consecutive years of cutting.
- Chemical: Herbicide applications are the most effective method for large infestations. Use glyphosate approved for aquatic areas or triclopyr at a foliar spray concentration. Stem injection/cut stump has also shown to be effective.

**References**

Kaufman, Sylvan R. and Wallace Kaufman. Invasive Plants. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2012. Print.