

CARP Factsheet

INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT: The Killer Bamboo

COMMON NAME: Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo, Mexican Bamboo

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Polygonum cuspidatum*

PLANT TYPE: Herbaceous Perennial

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Form – upright, usually in clumps (shrublike)

Height – may be taller than 3m

Leaves – large, simple, alternate, smooth, oval with pointed tip

Flowers – in linear clusters, greenish-white, very small

Fruit – small, winged, containing tiny, triangular seeds

Blooms in - August and September

Other Features – very extensive, creeping roots; large, hollow stems with pronounced nodes resemble bamboo

ORIGIN: East Asia

INTRODUCED (1800's) FOR: ornamental, erosion control, screening

HABITAT: adverse habitat types, but common along stream banks

MEANS OF SPREAD: vegetative, and possibly seed

PROBLEMS:

- virtually impossible to eradicate, once established
- successful in riparian areas
- dense shade prevents anything from growing up underneath it

IF YOU HAVE THIS PLANT ON YOUR PROPERTY:

- remove it promptly, and do not compost material from this plant (dry and burn, or regular garbage)
- *keep plant material on site if possible, to minimize spread
- do your research before attempting removal; extensive roots make this plant very hard to control

