WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

ALIEN INVADERS

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Polygonum cuspidatum

BASIC ID

This herbaceous perennial has hollow, bamboo-like stems, heart-shaped leaves and greenish-white flowers. It forms large clones that range in height from 4' to 10' and can cover several acres. It spreads vegetatively through long rhizomes.

IMPACTS

Originally from Japan, this plant invades stream banks, lakeshores, wetlands, grasslands, and woodlands. Emerging early and growing tall, it prevents sunlight from reaching native plants.

MANAGEMENT

- Small stands—cut repeatedly over many years
- Large stands—spray new foliage with herbicide

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive

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