

*Fallopia sachalinensis*

[Synonyms :*Pleuropterus sachalinensis*, *Polygonum sachalinense*, *Polygonum sachalinensis*, *Reynoutria sachalinensis*, *Tiniaria sachalinensis*]

**GIANT KNOTWEED** is an invasive perennial. Native to eastern Asia (particularly northern Japan and Sakhalin Island to Japan's north), it has small greenish-white flowers.

It is also known as Giant Japanese knotweed, *Jätteslide* (Swedish), *Jättitatar* (Finnish), *Kæmpepileurt* (Danish), *Křídlatka sachalinská* (Czech), *Ooitadori* (Japanese), *Rdestowiec sachaliński* (Polish), *Rdest sachaliński* (Polish), *Renouée géante* (French), *Riesen-Knöterich* (German), Sacaline, Sachaline knotweed, *Sachalin-Knöterich* (German), *Sachalinse duizendknoop* (Dutch), *Sachalin-Staudenknöterich* (German), *Sahhalini pargitatar* (Estonian), Sakhalin knotweed, and *Staudenknöterich* (German).

*Sachalinensis* means 'of or from Sakhalin, an island north of Japan'.

Sweetened young shoots are edible as a raw vegetable (or steamed or puréed), and the mature hollow stems can be prepared like rhubarb (*Rheum x hybridum*) – and with added sweetening can also be made into jams or pies. (The tiny ground seed can also provide a flour supplement, a thickening agent or soup flavouring.)

Authorities point out that an advantage of giant knotweed's vigorous growth is its value as ground cover and as a candidate for biomass programmes aimed at self-sufficiency in energy production.

In contrast today in some parts of North America giant knotweed is considered to be invasive – while in Northern Ireland for example it is not allowed to be planted or encouraged in the wild under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.