**Giant Hogweed, Heracleum mantegazzianum**

**Herbaceous Monocarpic Perennial**

**WARNING:** Sap of this plant is TOXIC to the skin.

**Size:** can grow up to 20’ tall.

**Leaves:** palmately compound, with deeply lobed leaflets, up to 5’ across.

**Reproduction & Dispersal:** seed, gardeners sharing plants.

**Flowers:** white clusters in June – July, up to 2.5’ across.

**Origin:** native to Caucasus Mountains, southwest Asia.

**Stems:** hollow, with stiff white hairs, green with burgundy red stripes.

Photo Credits: IPANE, CAES, Rose Hiskes
Japanese Knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*
syn. *Fallopia japonica*

Herbaceous Rhizomatous Perennial

**Origin:** native to Asia.

**Leaves:** alternate, egg-shaped, up to 6 in. long with a pointed tip.

**Stems:** hollow between nodes. Bamboo-like.

**Flowers:** white, in mid-late summer.

**Size:** grows to 10’ or more in an ever expanding clump that dies in the center with age.

**Reproduction & Dispersal:** mainly rhizomes, plant fragments in soil, some seed.

Do not purchase variegated forms of Japanese knotweed that can be found in garden centers.         Photo Credit: Jenn Forman Orth
Oriental Bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Deciduous Woody Vine

**Leaves:** alternate, toothed, spiral evenly around the stem, ovate to round.

**Stems:** twining stems of this botanical python have dark brown to brown striated, almost corky, bark with many lenticels. Small spines are found just above each node.

**Roots:** fibrous roots are orange in color.

**Size:** vines can grow up to 60’ tall and 4” in diameter.

**Reproduction & Dispersal:** fruit is eaten by birds and dispersed when they defecate.

**Fruits:** dioecious, so female plants develop fruits in axils all along the stem. The yellow ovary wall encases 3 fleshy red arils. The fruits split open at maturity revealing the arils that contain the seeds.

**Origin:** native to East Asia: Japan, Korea and China.

Photo credits: IPANE, Rose Hiskes
Autumn-Olive, *Elaeagnus umbellatus*

Deciduous Woody Shrub

**Origin:** eastern Asia.

**Leaves:** simple, elliptical to oval, yellow-green leaves are silvery underneath.

**Flowers:** creamy white, fragrant flowers in May attract bees.

**Fruit:** red, speckled fruit, high in lycopene, with a pit; that ripens in September.

**Stems:** young stems rusty red, older stems silver-brown with large spines.

**Size:** up to 20’ – 30’ tall and wide, forming thick stands.

**Reproduction & Dispersal:** this plant fixes nitrogen and can produce berries prolifically. Birds eat the berries and defecate the seed wherever they happen to be perched.
Mile-A-Minute, *Polygonum perfoliatum*
syn. *Persicaria perfoliata*

Herbaceous Annual Vine

**Size:** can grow up to 26’ in one season.

**Origin:** native to East Asia.

**Leaves:** alternate, up to 3” equilateral triangle, pale green, recurved barbs on lower midrib, petiole attaches on the back side of the blade (as in nasturtium leaves). A skirt-like structure, the ocrea, encircles the stem at each node.

**Stems:** wiry, thin, weakly rooted, white to green in color with tinges of red. Recurved barbs allow the plant to climb up and over shrubs and trees.

**Flowers & Fruit:** white terminal flowers begin in June and mature to bright blue fruits July through November. The ripe fruit cluster resembles grape hyacinth.

**Reproduction & Dispersal:** birds eat the fruit and disperse the seeds when they defecate.

Photo credits: IPANE, Donna Ellis
Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*

**Herbaceous Biennial**

**Leaves:** evergreen basal rosette has rounded leaves up to 4 in. across. Venation is palmate and margins are toothed. When crushed they give off a garlic odor. Leaves on flower stalk are triangular and smaller.

**Flowers:** white flowers with four petals in May to June held above the foliage.

**Fruit:** erect slender pods follow flowers, darken and open to drop seed in fall.

**Size:** grows to 3’ the flowering year.

**Reproduction & Dispersal:** seed.

**Origin:** native to Europe.

**Stems:** second year a smooth green flowering stalk emerges.

Photo credits: IPANE, Chris Evans, Bugwood.