

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Japanese butterbur (*Petasites japonicus*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native range is China, Japan, and the Korean peninsula;
- Perennial; plants can reach up to 2 meters tall.
- Flower stalks emerge prior to leaf growth. Flowers are white to pale yellow, and plants are dioecious.
- Thick, succulent leaf stalks, sparsely coated with bristly hairs grow up to 1.5 meters tall, emerging directly from the ground in the spring.
- Leaves are kidney to near heart shaped, growing 0.3 – 1.5 meters wide. Margins are toothed and leaf bottoms can feature thick to sparse woolly, white hairs.
- Seeds (achene) are ribbed with a tuft of white bristles on the end.
- Roots are rhizomes and readily break apart creating new plants.
- Leaf stems (Fuki) are edible if prepared correctly however, the plant contains a number of poisonous compounds.



Photo: BC Government

Other Common Names:

- Giant Butterbur
- Japanese Sweet Coltsfoot
- Fuki

PRIMARY THREATS: Japanese butterbur outcompetes native plants and is a particular threat to areas near water. It is a large plant, that is difficult to control, uses a lot of nutrients and water which dominates a site.



Photo: BC Government

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

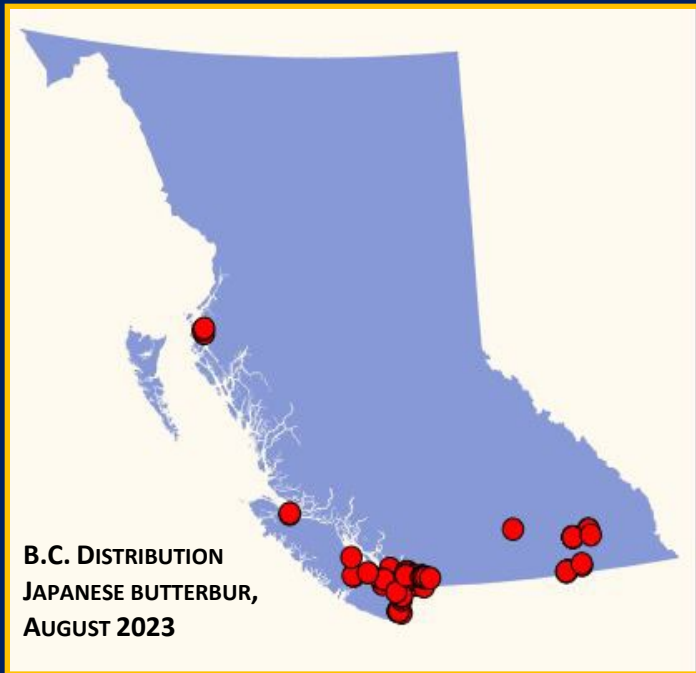
- While Japanese butterbur produces seed and may reproduce from them, root fragmentation and site expansion from roots are the most common method of spread.
- In creeks, as banks erode, root fragments are carried downstream and re-establish, thus creating new butterbur stands.
- Garden waste and plant trading are common methods of dispersal.
- Since the plant flowers prior to leaf production, effective treatments must occur early in the year.

For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



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REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** any sightings
- **Dispose** of garden waste through proper channels
- **Ensure** robust riparian vegetation so infestation don't occur
- **Treat** Japanese butterbur before disturbing a site with digging, mowers, or machinery

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HABITAT

- Japanese butterbur grows in areas of full or partial shade with high moisture availability. It will grow on riverbanks, shorelines, the edge of wetlands, meadows, bogs, treed floodplains, and roadside ditches. In BC it is often found in moist ditches and fields in lowland areas.

DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Occurs mainly in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island but is also found in the southern interior and Prince Rupert areas.
- Management goal is to prevent further expansion into new areas and to reduce overall extent.

