

Mini data sheet on *Fallopia baldschuanica*

Added in 2007 - Deleted in 2012

Reasons for deletion:

Fallopia baldschuanica was added to the EPPO Alert List in 2007 and transferred to the List of Invasive Alien Plants in 2012.

Why

Fallopia baldschuanica (Polygonaceae) is a perennial vine native to Asia. Its common name is “mile-a-minute-vine”, or “Russian vine” in English. The plant has been introduced for ornamental purposes and is still sold as such (first introduced in Spain in 1889). Within the EPPO region, its distribution is still limited. Because this plant has shown invasive behaviour where it has been introduced elsewhere in the world, and is still absent from the EPPO region, it can be considered a new emerging invader in Europe.

Geographical distribution

EPPO Region: Denmark (not invasive), Ireland (invasive), Germany, Spain (invasive), Italy (invasive), Slovenia (invasive).

Asia (native): Afghanistan, China (Tibet), Pakistan (Waziristan in the north-east), Russia (south, Siberia), Tajikistan.

North-America (invasive): USA (California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Washington).

Central America: Costa Rica.

Note: the species is casual in Belgium. In Slovenia, it is present in the warmer south-western part.

Morphology

F. baldschuanica is a non rhizomatous perennial vine growing up to 3-10 m. The lower part of climbing stems is woody. Leaves are simple and deciduous, 3-10 x 1-5 cm, ovate-oblong, petiole 1-4 cm, and margin entire or wavy. Terminal inflorescences in dense panicles, 3-15 cm with bisexual flowers, in fascicles of more than 5 flowers, greenish white to pink, 5-8 cm. The plant flowers from May to October. Achenes are dark brown to black, shiny, smooth, 2-4 x 1.8-2.2 mm.

Biology and ecology

The plant can grow in many types of soils. It can tolerate temperatures down to -20°C, but is sensitive to long lasting periods of frost. The species hybridizes with the very invasive *F. japonica* (EPPO List of IAP) which may increase its reproductive ability. It can reproduce both sexually by seeds and vegetatively by layering and rhizomes.

Habitats

F. baldschuanica thrives in disturbed sites, walls and ruins, riparian forests.

Impacts

This vine grows over shrubs and trees, and threatens native vegetation.

Control

The best strategy is to prevent the introduction of *F. baldschuanica* in wild areas. The only management method which has shown some effectiveness is the manual removal of plants. This mechanical method can only be effective if subterranean organs are removed.

Sources

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