



Distribution map - Japanese Knotweed

Source: Botanical Society of the British Isles (2010)

Japanese knotweed was first brought to Britain in the mid-nineteenth century as an ornamental garden plant. Since then it has spread into the wider environment, causing severe ecological and financial impacts.

A downloadable identification sheet for this species is available at www.nonnativespecies.org

Separate leaflets are available outlining the legal requirements and responsibilities for landowners.

The correct disposal of plant material is vital because there is a high risk of spreading the problem further. Contact the Environment Agency (England and Wales) or SEPA (Scotland) for advice on disposal.

Environment Agency - Tel: 08708 506 506
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Tel : 01786 457 700 www.sepa.org.uk

Further information may also be found on the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology web pages:
http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sci_programmes/AquaticPlantManagement.html

A local project is currently underway with the aim of tackling Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) in the Tame Valley Wetlands scheme area.

We are asking local landowners, friends of groups and other interested parties to help us in this task to prevent the spread of these invasive species and promote native flora.

If you would like to know more about our project, need advice or help with management, we would like to hear from you.

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**Tame
Valley
Wetlands**



Control of invasive non-native species

Japanese knotweed

Fallopia japonica



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Japanese Knotweed is among the most invasive species in the world.

It threatens our native habitats.

If left unmanaged, it spreads rapidly, and can be difficult and expensive to control.

Please help to prevent the spread of this plant.

Control methods for Japanese knotweed



In the absence of suitable control methods, fresh young shoots of Japanese knotweed will re-appear every springtime.

Control

Avoid pulling stems. Stems can regenerate from nodes, or fragments of nodes. If a **cut** stem is dried until it is crisp and brown it can be burnt or disposed of as an inert waste. If stems have been **pulled up**, they will have fragments of knotweed crown still attached at their base. This is highly regenerative and will regrow, even after the stem has dried.

The correct disposal of Knotweed waste is essential.

Refer to the current code of practice / guidance notes for their disposal (Web addresses and contact numbers over-leaf):

In England and Wales - The knotweed code of practice is available on the Environment Agency website.

In Scotland - The Knotweed technical guidance note is available on the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency website.

Non-chemical control

Cutting

Knotweed should be cut with a single clean cut near the base of the stem. Use a simple scythe method of cutting to prevent stem fragmentation. **Flail mowing, or similar methods, should not be undertaken.**

Cutting will have to be performed every 2-4 weeks during the growing season if it is the sole method of management. Alternatively, treat regrowth with herbicide.

Burn cut stems on site or remove to landfill (licence required).

Digging

This is rarely an option that is appropriate to riparian situations. If digging is undertaken, refer to the code of practice (see web address overleaf) and ensure that no knotweed material is allowed to enter the watercourse .

Biological

Grazing of shoots by horses, donkeys, sheep and goats may keep the plant in check, provided previous dead growth is removed.

The psyllid bug *Aphalara itadori* is due to be released in 2010 and should reduce the vigour of Japanese knotweed in the UK.



Chemical control

Spraying both top and underside of leaves improves control. Chemical treatment is most effective when it is applied in Aug-Sept. A stem injection method can be used to avoid damage to sensitive areas.

Near water: Glyphosate is more effective when applied to mature canes in Aug-Sept. If access or the risk of drift is a problem, either cut or spray the stems earlier in the season to restrict regrowth. A 1 in 10 dilution can be used for stem injection.

In general:

Herbicides can be applied using tractor-mounted, knapsack long-lance or Controlled Droplet Applicator. Control is easier if dead winter stems are removed before grown commences. Be careful to avoid spreading knotweed crowns when clearing dead canes. Application in sensitive areas is best achieved by stem injection or weed wiper.