

It is illegal "to plant or otherwise encourage" the growth or spread of invasive plants, such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam or Giant Hogweed. They spread quickly, dominate habitats, grow densely and shade out native plants. Biodiversity is affected as the consequent loss in plant diversity leads to a reduction in the population of insects and birds.



Japanese Knotweed forms dense clumps over 3m high. The rhizome roots can extend several metres away from the original plant and be up to 2m deep. The plant is strong enough to penetrate foundations, walls, roads and drainage pipework. It spreads through progression of its root system and through fragments of its stem or root (a piece as small as 0.8 grams can regenerate). The stem is hollow with distinct nodes like bamboo and breaks easily.

In Spring it is fleshy and red tinged and in Summer it is green with purple speckles. Leaves in Spring are pinky red and uncurl as the stem grows. In Summer they become large oval or heart shaped mid-green.

Flowers are cream coloured and appear in drooping clusters towards the end of August. The plant dies before November often leaving behind the upright brown, hollow, woody stalks.



DO

- ✓ IMMEDIATELY stop all work within 7 metres of the suspect plant and contact your line manager for instructions if you think you have identified Japanese Knotweed on your site.

DON'T

- ✗ DON'T excavate or move any soil from within 7 metres of a Japanese Knotweed plant without instruction.
- ✗ DON'T track plant or vehicles over the area.
- ✗ DON'T stockpile potentially contaminated material within 10 metres of a watercourse or drain.