

Japanese Knotweed



Japanese Knotweed, native to the far East, was introduced to Europe in the 19th Century as an ornamental garden species. It has since spread rapidly and is now common throughout Europe, including in the UK. Japanese Knotweed has a thick stem, similar to bamboo, which is speckled in appearance and leaves up to 15cm long.

What Does It Mean?

Japanese Knotweed will often be found growing on disturbed ground and along river banks. It can form dense, impenetrable stands which outcompete other plants and can displace native species. Japanese Knotweed is also very hard to get rid of due to having an extensive root system containing rhizomes meaning that any small bit of plant material remaining in the soil can start the growth of another plant. Their seeds can also sit dormant in the soil for up to three years.

What Can Be Done?

Japanese Knotweed is one of the main target species in an Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) project being run by the Tweed Forum. Plants can either be sprayed or have chemical injected into their stems to kill them off. You can find out about the Forum's work to tackle Japanese Knotweed using the link below.

<https://tweedforum.org/our-work/projects/tweed-invasives-project/japanese-knotweed/>

You can help eradicate Japanese Knotweed from the Tweed catchment by reporting any sightings of it. If you find Japanese Knotweed throughout the Tweed district then please contact either the Tweed Forum directly or the Tweed Foundation using the details below and we can pass on the information.

The Tweed Foundation
Drygrange Steading, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD69DJ
Tel: 01896 848271
Email: info@tweedfoundation.org.uk