

What?

- Japanese knotweed is non-native and one of the most pernicious weeds in Britain. It can grow up to 20mm a day forming dense clumps over three metres high.
- The stem is hollow, looks like bamboo and breaks easily. In spring it is fleshy and red tinged and in summer it is green with purple speckles. 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 stems.
- The plant spreads rapidly because any fragments of its stem or root will grow to form a new plant (a piece as small as 0.8 grams can regenerate) making it very difficult to eradicate.

Why?

- Japanese knotweed kills native plants by producing a dense canopy of leaves. Although not toxic to humans or animals, it offers a poor habitat for wildlife.
- It is illegal 'to plant or otherwise encourage' the growth of Japanese knotweed. This could include cutting the plant or roots and disturbing or moving surrounding soil that may contain root material unless as part of an eradication process.
- It can cause structural damage as it is strong enough to grow through foundations, walls, roads and drainage pipework.



Do ✓

- ✓ If you suspect Japanese knotweed stop all work within seven metres and report it to your leader



Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't enter an identified area of Japanese knotweed during treatment
- ✗ Don't excavate or move any soil from within 7m of a Japanese knotweed plant without instruction
- ✗ Don't stockpile material suspected to contain Japanese knotweed within 10m of watercourses, gullies or drains



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