

Bohemian knotweed

Fallopia x bohemica



Habitat: Terrestrial

Family name: Polygonaceae

Native to: Japan, Taiwan, northern China

Description: Bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia japonicus x bohemica*) is a hybrid of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*). Its features are intermediate between those of the parent species.

Unlike the parental Japanese knotweed, Bohemian knotweed can produce viable seeds in the Ireland. This increases its invasive potential. It can also spread from cuttings and fragments.

Bohemian knotweed has hairs that are short and broad-based (*triangular-shaped*), compared with long and wavy in giant knotweed and reduced to barely noticeable bumps in Japanese

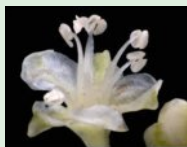
knotweed. These hairs often fall off later in the season.

Bohemian knotweed in Ireland may well be mis-identified as Japanese knotweed and is considered to be quite widely distributed in Ireland.

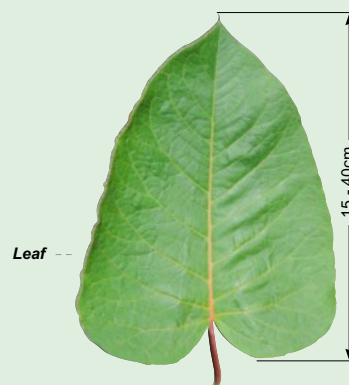
The leaves are larger than Japanese knotweed but smaller than Giant knotweed (*up to 23cm long*).

Leaves can vary in shape from square-ended to heart-shaped and both variations can appear on the same plant.

Bohemian knotweed does not grow as tall as Giant knotweed but, like all knotweeds, it forms dense stands that exclude other plant species and reduce biodiversity.



Knotweed Identification Guide



Giant knotweed
(*Fallopia sachalinensis*)

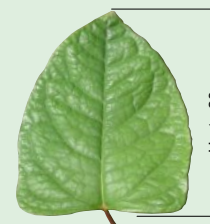
Flower



Stem



Giant knotweed



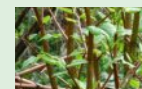
Bohemian knotweed
(*Fallopia x bohemica*)



Bohemian knotweed
2m to >4m tall



Japanese knotweed
(*Fallopia japonica*)



Japanese knotweed



Himalayan knotweed
(*Persicaria wallichii*)



Himalayan knotweed

Plant Size	4m to >5m tall	2m to >4m tall	1.5m to >3m tall	2m to >3m tall
Leaf Size L/W	15cm to 40cm 2/3 as wide	12cm to 23cm 2/3 as wide	10cm to 17cm 2/3 as wide	10cm to 20cm 1/2 as wide
Sex	Perfect and fertile, usually produces seed	Female or Perfect, occasionally produces seed	Female or Perfect (rare), occasionally produces seed	Perfect and fertile, usually produces seed
Flower Colour & Arrangement	Green-white to cream-white with compact, drooping arrangement	Green-white to cream-white with erect or loose, drooping arrangement	Green-white to cream-white with a loose, drooping arrangement	Pinkish-white to pink with a loose, spreading arrangement

Reproduction is primarily vegetative by rhizome fragments. Movement of fragments occurs when a patch is excavated and moved, or when rhizomes from plants growing along a riverbank break off and float downstream.

Even very small fragments that have a node present can regenerate a new plant. Stem fragments can also serve as a mode of spread. A cut stem soil can form a new plant.



Underground rhizomes can grow to 3m deep and over 7m laterally producing new shoots some distance from its origin.

