



(Fallopia japonica var. compacta)

Common Names

Dwarf Japanese Knotweed, Fallopia japonica var. japonica, Polygonum compactum, Polygonum cuspidatum, Reynoutria japonica var. compacta.

Family: Polygonaceae (Buckwheat family)

Status in Ireland

Highly invasive and listed under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, which makes it illegal to spread this

Description / Profile

Dwarf Japanese knotweed is a highly invasive species that can cause significant ecological and structural damage. It is a highly resilient plant with its extensive rhizome system making it very difficult to eradicate, and enabling it to spread rapidly in disturbed areas from very small fragments.

Dwarf Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonicus var. compacta) is a related to other knotweeds such as Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica). Its features are similar those of Japanese knotweed, only smaller.



Leaves

Can grow up to 1 metre tall during the summer months.

Heart or spade-shaped with a pointed tip, 2-5 cm wide and 5-8 cm long with a shallow lobed base. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem.



Hollow, bamboo-like stems with distinct reddishbrown spots. Stems have a zig-zag growth pattern and are smooth with a green colour, sometimes purple-tinged. Stems become brittle and woody, brown in colour as the plant dies back in winter but persist upright.

Small, pink/pale green or white flower clusters

(August-October), up to 10 cm long. Dwarf

fragments and via its extensive rhizomes.

(panicles) called racemes appear in late summer

Japanese knotweed is not known to produce viable

seeds in the Ireland. It can spread from cuttings and



Dwarf Japanese Knotweed Stem

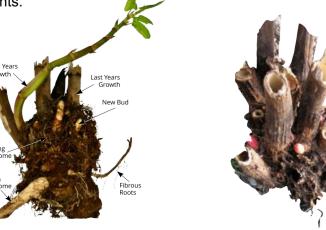
Dwarf Japanese Knotweed Leaf

Dwarf Japanese Knotweed Rhizome

Rhizomes

Flowers

Underground rhizomes are orange/yellow in colour and can spread horizontally up to 7 metres and reach depths of 3 metres. Rhizomes are highly regenerative: even small fragments can give rise to new plants.



Dwarf Japanese Knotweed Crown Dwarf Japanese Knotweed Crown & Winter Stems

Habitat

Native to Japan and parts of East Asia, in it's native environment it can be found growing in extremely harsh conditions and has a very hardy perennial growth cycle. In Ireland, it can be frequently found on railway sidings, roadsides, riverbanks, brownfield sites, and urban areas. Dwarf Japanese Knotweed prefers moist, well-drained soils, often thriving in disturbed areas.

Control & Management

Effective management requires a well-planned herbicide treatment programme combined with mechanical and biosecurity measures, particularly in protected

Note: Herbicide use near watercourses requires special permission from the local council or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Chemical Control

Herbicide treatment (such as our Green Matters™ foam treatment) - is the most effective method, particularly when applied in late summer/early autumn when the plant is storing energy in its rhizomes. If near watercourses, use only aquatic-approved herbicides to prevent contamination and consider stem injection technique for a more precise application. Maintain a buffer zone (at least 10 metres) and avoid herbicide run-off.

Note: Herbicide treatment is not suitable where an area infested with Dwarf Japanese knotweed is designated for development. Excavation will be required to clear the area before development can commence.

Growth Stage - Use appropriate herbicide formulations depending on the growth stage, example, in early growth (spring), full height (summer), flowering (late summer), or dying back (autumn/winter).

Mechanical Control

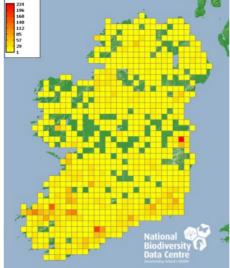
Excavation - mechanical removal can be effective and can be conducted all year round but must be done carefully to ensure all rhizomes are removed. Excavated soil containing knotweed must be managed and disposed of at authorised landfill sites.

S.O.S.™ - JKC soil screening service is an option to reduce landfill costs. Screened solis can be re-used on site to minimising materials requiring disposal to a licensed facility.

Deep Cell Burial - If there is space on the site, a burial cell can be considered. Vector material should be buried in a prepared cell that is lined with root barrier at a depth no less than 3m.

Treatment Bund- If there is space on the site, a treatment bund can be considered. Vector material should be placed in a prepared bund that is lined with root barrier and monitored/treated until new growth is completely

Root Barriers - Barriers can be installed to prevent the spread of rhizomes into adjacent properties. Installing root barriers can help contain the spread of rhizomes, particularly near infrastructure or sensitive areas.



This map shows the current (2024) distribution of Dwarf Japanese Knotweed in Ireland, recorded by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Reporting

Reporting sightings of invasive species in Ireland to the National Biodiversity Data Centre and/or the relevant local authority.

https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/start -recording.

Monitoring and Maintenance

Regular monitoring of the site is essential, particularly after initial treatment or excavation. Plan for followup inspections of treated / excavated areas for at least 3-5 years to check for regrowth or new infestations.

Environmental Considerations

Herbicide Handling - Use PPE, including gloves, goggles, and long-sleeved clothing. Avoid skin and eye contact and inhalation. Follow all safety instructions on herbicide labels.

Herbicide Application Method - Use foliar spraying for large infestations and the stem injection method for smaller stands or in sensitive areas. Ensure accurate calibration of spraying equipment to avoid over-application

Weather Conditions - Apply during calm, dry conditions to minimise drift. Avoid application during heavy rainfall or when rain is forecast within 6 hours to reduce run-off.

> Storage & Disposal - Store herbicides securely in a dry, well-ventilated area away from water sources. Dispose of containers and unused herbicides according to local regulations to prevent environmental contamination.

Watercourses - Knotweed spreads easily along rivers and streams in Ireland, where water can carry rhizome fragments downstream.

Soil Movement - Soil movement or excavation might cause further spread, such as during construction projects.

Leaf

Plant Size

Leaf Size L/W

Flower Colour &

Giant knotweed

(Fallopia sachalinensis)

4m to >5m tal

Perfect and fertile

usually produces seed

Green-white to cream

white with compact,

Proximity to Infrastructure - Dwarf Japanese Knotweed has the potential impacts on roads, walls, and buildings. **Legal Requirements** - Follow legal requirements under

the EU and Irish regulations, ensuring compliance

with all management and disposal practices. Under Irish law, it is illegal to cause or allow the spread of Dwarf Japanese Knotweed. Special care must be taken to manage and prevent its spread during construction and landscaping projects.





Safety Protocols

Herbicide Handling - Use PPE, including gloves, goggles, face mask and long-sleeved clothing, Coveralls. Avoid skin and eye contact and inhalation.















CAUTION WEED SPANING IN PROGRESS PROGRESS Follow all safety instructions on herbicide labels. If the infestation is in a public

On-site Biosecurity Measures

Prevent Spread - Avoid disturbing the plant unnecessarily, as rhizome fragments can easily spread and establish new colonies. Remove and bag all cut material for proper disposal.

area, signage may be required to warn the public and prevent soil disturbance.

Equipment Cleanliness - Clean all tools, equipment, footwear, and clothing before leaving the site to prevent the spread of rhizomes and plant material.

Transport of Plant Material - Transport all plant material in sealed containers to an authorised disposal site.

Do not compost or leave on-site, as this can lead to further spread.

Monitoring & Follow-Up - Regular monitoring of the site is essential, particularly after initial treatment or excavation.

Plan for follow-up inspections of treated / excavated areas for at least 3-5 years to check for regrowth or new infestations.

Follow-up treatments may be necessary for several years due to the persistent nature of the rhizome system.

Long-Term Management

Site Rehabilitation - Following successful control, implement a long-term monitoring and rehabilitation plan to restore native vegetation and prevent reinvasion.

Re-vegetation - Replant treated areas with native species to restore ecological balance and prevent re-invasion by Dwarf Japanese Knotweed.

Community Engagement - Engage local communities in identification and reporting of knotweed infestations. Educate on its ecological impacts and promote the use of native alternatives for landscaping

For further information and free advice, please contact: Japanese Knotweed Control Ltd.

Email: mail@jkc.ie Tel: +353 (0)86 250 8805 Web: www.jkc.ie

Knotweed Leaf Comparison



Bohemian knotweed

Bohemian knotweed

2m to >4m tall

12cm to 23cm

Female or Perfect.

occasionally produces

Green-white to cream

drooping arrangement

white with erect or loose



Japanese knotweed

1.5m to >3m tall

10cm to 17cm

Female or Perfect (rare).

occasionally produces

Green-white to cream-

drooping arrangemen

white with a loose,



Dwarf Japanese knotweed



Himalayan knotweed

Pinkish-white to pink



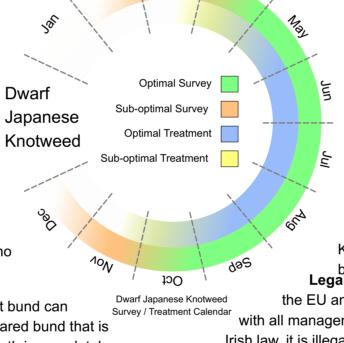


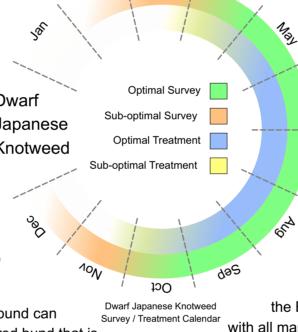
Dwarf Japanese knotweed 1m to <1.5m tall 2m to >3m tall 5cm to 8cm 10cm to 20cm

Female or Perfect Perfect and fertile. (rare), occasionally usually produces

Pink-white with erect

or loose, drooping with a loose, spreading





N.B. This Species Identification Guide is intended to outline the key identification factors and treatment options only and should not be used as a definitive method for species ID. Legislation and its interpretation is constantly

evolving. A variety of other IAPS may be encountered, which may require specific survey and mitigation. Please contact Japanese Knotweed Control Ltd (mail@jkc.ie) for the latest position & advice.

Herbicide Treatment Timetable

Month	Treatment	Herbicide Type	Herbicide Rate	Considerations
March - April	Early Growth Foliar Application	Glyphosate-based herbicide (e.g., Roundup ProActive)	4-5 L/ha of 360g/L formulation	Apply when new shoots are actively growing and reach 0.5m in height. Ensure full coverage of leaves.
May - June	Mid-Growth Foliar Application	Glyphosate or Triclopyr (e.g., Garlon 4)	Glyphosate: 5-6 L/ha; Triclopyr: 4-5 L/ha	Apply when plants are at least 1m tall. Avoid application during flowering.
July - August	Cut & Spray Method	Glyphosate	10-15 ml of 360g/L solution per cut stem	Cut plants to ground level and apply herbicide directly to cut stems. Suitable for dense patches.
September - October	Late Season Foliar Application	Glyphosate	5-6 L/ha	Apply to any regrowth before the onset of dormancy. Ensure thorough coverage of all foliage.
November - February	Physical Removal & Site Maintenance	N/A	N/A	Remove any remaining plant material and roots. Monitor the site for any new shoots or seedlings.