

Japanese Knotweed Information Sheet

If you find Japanese Knotweed on your property, don't panic! There are plenty of scare stories about this invasive, non-native weed but knowing the facts and what to do about an infestation will help you to control it effectively and within budget.

What is Japanese Knotweed?

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is a large, herbaceous perennial plant of the knotweed and buckwheat family Polygonaceae. It is native to East Asia in Japan, China and Korea.

What does it look like?



Knotweed plants are:

- Dense thickets of green, purple-flecked stalks which can grow to around 3m in height
- Leaves are shield-shaped and pointed at the end
- Stems are hollow and will be easily snapped.

Why is Japanese Knotweed such a problem?

This is a vigorous plant that can grow from a tiny scrap of root and has no pests or predators to control it in the UK so it spreads very quickly and can be hard to eradicate. Knotweed shoots are able to grow underground and push up through tarmac, hardstanding and built structures.

It is a particular problem on development sites where the root growth, called a rhizome, may be spread when soil is disturbed.

Mortgage lenders might not lend money on a property where there is Japanese Knotweed unless there is a plan in place for its effective management.

What are your legal obligations?

You do not have to remove Japanese Knotweed or even control it on your land but you could be prosecuted or given a community protection notice for causing a nuisance if you allow it to grow on anyone else's property.

How can JPR Environmental help if you think you have discovered Japanese Knotweed on your property?

We can:

- Identify Japanese Knotweed and give you initial guidance on what to do next – this will normally be achieved through sending photos by email
- Develop a plan for control or eradication
- Carry out the following works:
 - Spraying with herbicide and ongoing maintenance
 - Excavation and stockpile on site
 - Excavation and burial on site
 - Excavation and removal to landfill
- Offer insurance-backed guarantees

Why choose us?

The biggest reason for choosing JPR Environmental is because we offer the right solution for your site – we do not have a one-size-fits-all approach. We tailor our work to your budget and required outcomes (you may only need to control the knotweed over several years or eradicate it completely and quickly for example).

We have experience of both large-scale commercial sites and small-scale domestic properties and we are happy to discuss your particular project. Our area of expertise is where there are additional environmental considerations on site, such as watercourses or protected species.

Our qualifications and certifications

Our staff have NPTC qualifications for the spraying of herbicides and all carry CSCS cards which means that they understand the importance of health and safety on site.

Our company is a member of the Property Care Association and we have CHAS accreditation.

We have public liability insurance and professional indemnity cover. We can also arrange insurance-backed guarantees for any Japanese Knotweed control project.

Please call or email for more information:

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