TETRIX ECOLOGY

KNOTWEED FACTSHEET

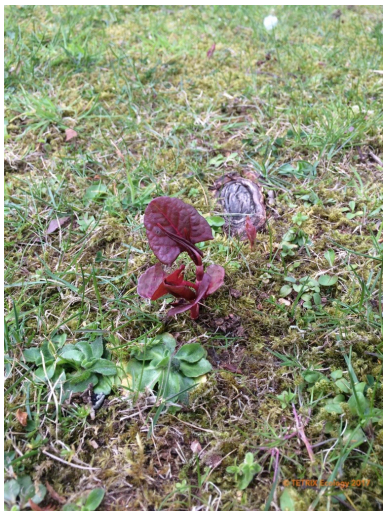
Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

Japanese knotweed is a tall, herbaceous perennial plant native to Japan, China and Korea. The plant grows to a height of approximately 3-4 m and has red-blotched hollow stems with distinct raised nodes (joints). The leaves are broad oval with a truncated base, approximately 7-14 cm in length and 5-12 cm wide. The flowers are small, cream or white, produced in erect stems (racemes) approximately 6-15 cm long in late summer and early autumn.

All Japanese knotweed in Europe is female and is a single clone, which can be traced back to the Nagasaki region of Japan. By virtue of the fact that all Japanese knotweed is female, it cannot produce seed although the plant is capable of hybridising (see below) or regenerating from root (rhizome) fragments as small as 0.8 gm.

Historical archives show that Japanese knotweed was first introduced into Europe somewhere between 1841 and 1849 by a German surgeon (Dr Phillipe von Siebold) following a period of residency in Nagasaki, Japan. Under the auspices of the Royal Society for Encouragement, the plant was cultivated by Dr Phillipe von Siebold and became commercially available throughout Europe, where it was widely cultivated for its ornamental value in state and private gardens.

When disturbed, typically through mowing or other forms of mechanical disturbance, Japanese knotweed displays an a-typical pattern of growth that can often result in the species being misidentified in the field.



The stands that are shown in the accompanying pictures were taken along the Kyles of Bute and the west end of Glasgow, Scotland.

A more detailed description of this species of knotweed is presented in the following CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International) factsheet: http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/23875

Giant Knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*) & Hybrid Knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemica*)

Giant knotweed grows to a height of approximately 3-4m and, in common with Japanese knotweed, has hollow, jointed stems. The heart-shaped leaves grow with a crenate (wavy) margin and are the largest in the knotweed family, growing to approximately 15-40 cm in length and 10-28 cm wide. The flowers are small, cream or white, and are produced on short panicles up to 10 cm in length in late summer and early autumn.

Giant knotweed was discovered by Dr H Weyrich on the Island of Sakhalin, in the Pacific Ocean, north of Japan, during a Russian naval expedition from 1852-55. The plant was brought back to St Petersburg in 1864, where it was reported growing in the city's botanical gardens in the same year. Giant knotweed was introduced to the UK in the late 1860s, first appearing for sale in the 1869-70 catalogue of the horticulturalist William Bull of Chelsea.

Giant knotweed is very closely related to Japanese knotweed and can readily cross breed (hybridise) with Japanese knotweed to form hybrid knotweed, under cultivation. This is due to the fact that the male form of this species is widely prevalent in Europe, although not as common as Japanese knotweed. Hybrid knotweed is additionally capable of back-crossing with Japanese knotweed to form varying degrees of hybridisation.

The stands that are shown in accompanying pictures were taken along the River Kelvin in Glasgow, Scotland and in Utrecht, Netherlands.

A more detailed description of this species of knotweed is presented in the following CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International) factsheet: http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/107744.

Himalayan Knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*)

Himalayan knotweed originates from the temperate, western regions of Asia and the Indian subcontinent. This species of knotweed is shorter than Japanese, giant and hybrid knotweed, growing to a height of approximately 0.4-1.8 m. The erect stem of the plant is reddish brown and is un-armed. The lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate leaves are markedly different from the above forms of knotweed, growing to approximately 9-22 cm in length and 3-8 cm wide. The flowers are cream-white, occasionally pinkish, and are produced on a richly branched panicle up to 11 cm in length.

Himalayan knotweed was first introduced to the UK as an ornamental garden plant shortly before the 1900. However, it wasn't until 1917 that it was recorded growing in the wild, to the north Devon. Himalayan knotweed is tolerant to a range of growing conditions; however, in the UK the species favours damp conditions.

The stand that is shown in accompanying picture was taken along the shores of the Kyles of Bute in June 2017.

A more detailed description of this species of knotweed is presented in the following CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International) factsheet: http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/120210.

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

The law on non-native species is still governed by Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). However, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act, which came into force in 2011, made significant amendments to the law on non-natives in Scotland. Under the legislation, it is an offence to deliberately or unintentionally allow a plant to grow in the wild at a place outwith its native range and/or otherwise cause a plant to grow in the wild at a place outwith its native range.

Scottish Natural Heritage has published detailed guidance to help affected landowners understand the legal implication of knotweed and other invasive, non-native plant and animal species, which additionally includes advice on control, disposal and available funding.

A Code of Practice on Non-Native Species was published by the Scottish Government in 2012 - a full version of the document can be downloaded from the following link.

Identification sheets for other non-native species can be downloaded from the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat.

LIMITATIONS OF USE

This factsheet has been informed by current good practice ecological guidance.

All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information provided in this factsheet is current and accurate.

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