



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



PLANT PROFILE

Japanese Knotweed

INVASIVE

FACTS

ID

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ACTION**

TIPS

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Species description

Scientific name:
Reynoutria japonica

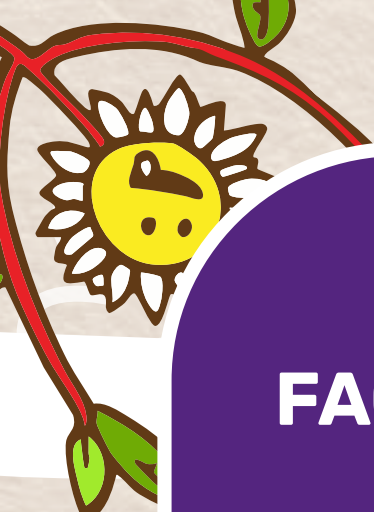
Also known as:
Fallopia japonica

Native to:
Japan, Taiwan and northern China

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In Partnership with
Welsh Government



FACTS

ID

TAKE
ACTION

TIPS

MORE
PROFILES

Interesting facts

Impacts:

Grows in dense thickets and can outcompete native plants. Contributes to riverbank erosion and flooding. Can hinder conservation efforts and the viability for angling. Can cause structural damage to infrastructure as it can grow through surfaces.

Habitat:

Disturbed habitats in urban areas, by water courses, canals and on waste ground, usually in full sunshine. It is shade tolerant and can invade woodland.

A tall, vigorous herbaceous perennial with an extensive system of rhizomes. Japanese knotweed was introduced to Britain in 1850. It was first recorded in the wild in 1886. It has been widespread in Britain since the 1940s.

How it spreads:

Spreads vegetatively through vigorous, fast-growing rhizomes (underground root-like stems). Along rivers root pieces can be washed downstream and become established elsewhere.

TOP

FACTS

ID

TAKE
ACTION

TIPS

MORE
PROFILES

Key identification features

Alternate leaves in distinct zig-zag pattern.



Tassels of sterile white flowers in late summer or early autumn.



Bamboo-like stems, to 2m high, flecked with purple.



Rhizome



Sterile seed heads in autumn.

Shield shaped leaf with flat base.



New growth in spring.



TOP



FACTS

ID

TAKE
ACTION

TIPS

MORE
PROFILES

Take action

Help **stop** the **spread!**



Employ a specialist contractor for the removal of Japanese knotweed.

Find out more [here](#)

Japanese knotweed is **controlled waste** and can only be disposed of at specialist waste facilities.

Explore our tips for alternative plant ideas.



TOP

FACTS

ID

TAKE
ACTION

TIPS

MORE
PROFILES

Handy tips

Legislation

Japanese knotweed is listed as an invasive species on [Schedule 9](#) of the [Wildlife and Countryside Act \(1981\)](#). It is an **offence to plant or cause to grow in the wild**. Gardeners possessing this plant should seek specialist advice.

Eradication is required by law in property development sites.

Gardeners possessing this plant should undertake measures to help **stop the spread** from their gardens into the wild.

Alternative plant ideas

Non-native

Drooping laurel
(*Leucothoe fontanesiana*)

Lily-of-the-valley bush
(*Pieris japonica*)

Redvein enkianthus
(*Enkianthus campanulatus*)



**Drooping
laurel**



**Redvein
enkianthus**

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Photos: Liz Blyth, Mike Sleigh.

Illustrations: David Setter @doodleplanet and starfishonline.co.uk

Information collated from: GB NNSS, BSBI and RHS.