

How To Identify Japanese Knotweed

by Japanese Knotweed Specialists

in Partnership with



IDENTIFICATION



TREATMENT



REMOVAL



GUARANTEE

PART OF



**Grounds Care
Group**

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Save money by identifying Japanese knotweed

Japanese knotweed causes damage to solid surfaces and man-made constructions due to its highly intrusive nature. As a result, this perennial plant poses mass economic repercussions for many sectors.

Above the ground

During the months of February and March, red buds appear from the foundations of the Japanese knotweed. These buds evolve into shoots, flourishing in a reddish hue with curled-up leaves. Developing stems appear green and hollow with red speckles. During spring and summer, the canes mature quickly to reach a height of between 2 to 3 metres.

In spring, the freshly extended leaves resemble a yellow-green shade, growing darker as they age over the warm summer months. Along the stem, they form a zig-zag design. Towards the end of summer and beginning of Autumn (August to October), the flowering plant produces groups of small white-creamy flowers in places where the leaves meet the stem. The end of Autumn prompts the leaves to turn a yellow-brown shade, dropping to unveil feathery branches from the remnants of the flowers. Hollow canes lose their outer dark skin, revealing a smooth, fragile cane.



Below the ground

Japanese knotweed grows extensively underground to form rhizomes - a collection of shoots. These shoots develop sideways, spreading from the plant's crown and may extend by 7 metres, with a depth of 3 metres. Although, this can fluctuate depending on the history, age, and nature of the site. The outer appearance of a rhizome is dark brown and it breaks easily if snapped to unveil a vivid orange colour. Aged rhizomes may have a woody exterior with a potentially hollow middle section. During flowering season, red-pink buds with white hair-type roots are seen on the rhizomes. New rhizomes have a white hue and are extremely breakable. The look of a rhizome does not alter between species. However, Giant knotweed is bigger.

Pieces of rhizome which are smaller than the size of a fingernail can grow into a brand new plant. Ensure you examine imported equipment for knotweed rhizomes.



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Dormant rhizomes

Rhizomes can lie dormant for decades unless provoked to grow by disruption. Rhizomes could be dormant due to treatment. However, no re-development does not suggest elimination.

Winter suggestions

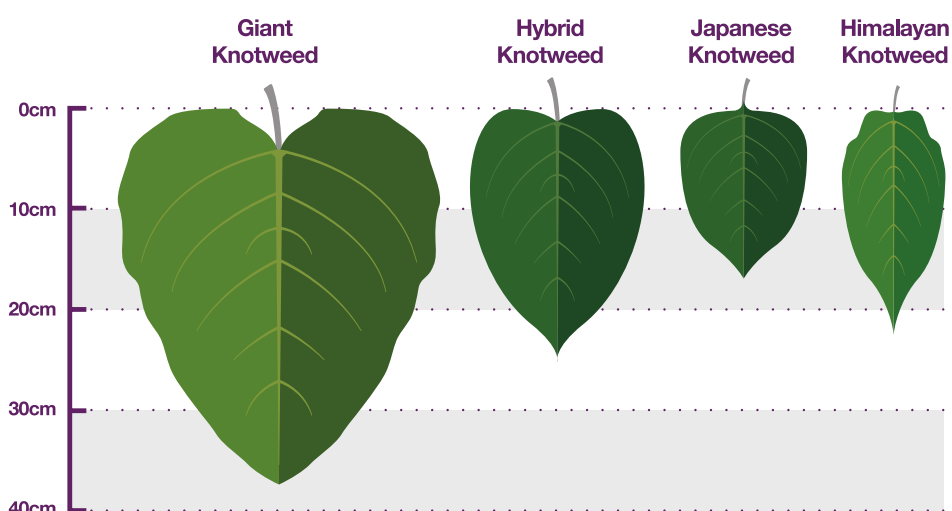
It can be challenging to identify knotweed during winter, especially if canes have been cut or blown over by gusts of wind. If you carefully inspect a site, you will usually spot canes and plant litter from former growths as they generally decompose at a slow rate. On a raked site, you may need to search for rhizome material to decide if knotweed is existent.



How to distinguish between knotweeds

Giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*) which grows up to 5 metres in height and a smaller compact variety of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* var. *compacta*) which can grow up to 1 metre are two additional species of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Within the UK, a hybrid between Japanese knotweed and Giant knotweed is also detected.

Their leaves are shaped like a shovel, although there are slight variations in size between the different plant species. The bottom of the leaf which joins the stalk almost appears heart-shaped on a Giant knotweed leaf, whereas it is a straight line on traditional Japanese knotweed. Hybrid knotweed leaves have a shape in-between these two. Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*) which is a member of the Polygonaceae family are regularly incorrectly identified as Japanese knotweed. Their leaves are longer and thinner than the other species mentioned. All species of plant should be treated and managed in the same manner.



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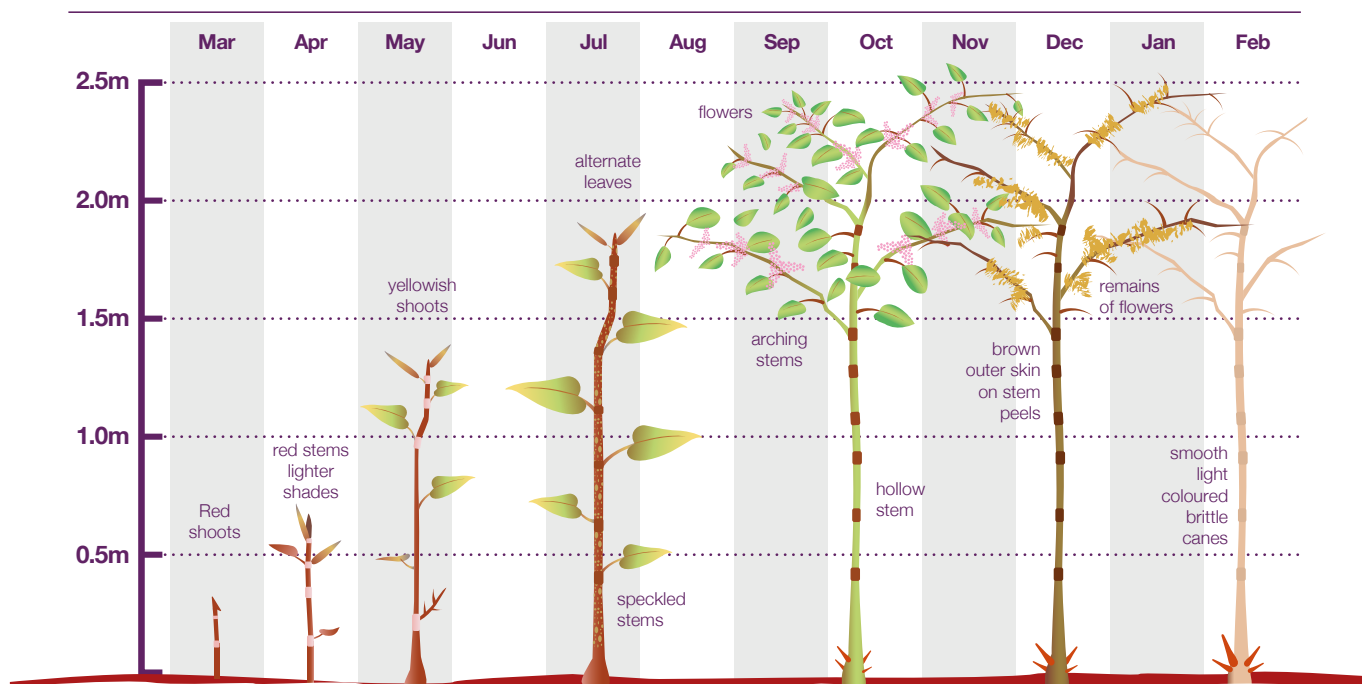
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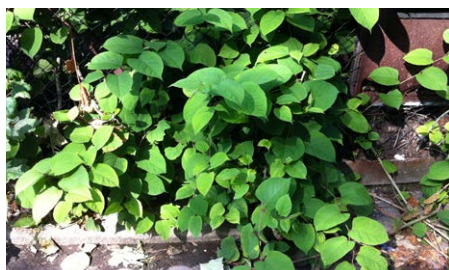


Japanese Knotweed Throughout the Year



How Knotweed Appears Across the Seasons

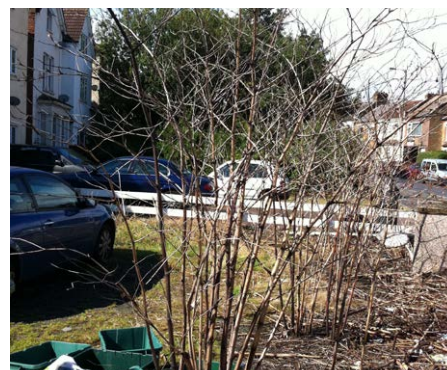
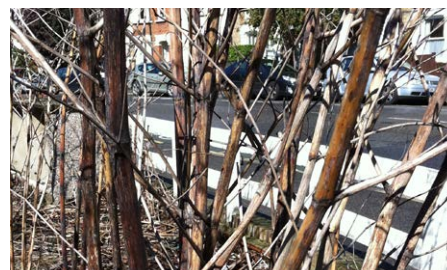
Spring



Summer



Winter



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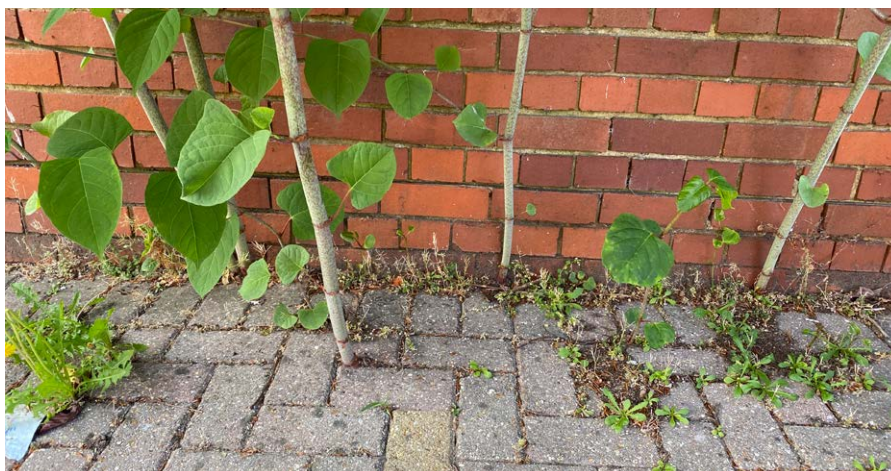
Japanese Knotweed Crown



Japanese Knotweed Rhizome



Examples of Damage Caused by Japanese Knotweed



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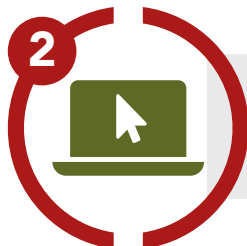


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