

How to identify: Japanese Knotweed

Scientific name: *Fallopia japonica*

Origins: Japan, Taiwan, Northern China

Habitat: Commonly found along railways, riverbanks, roads, and on derelict sites

Flowers

- The flowers bloom between the end of August and early September
- They are a creamy white colour growing in small clusters up to 10cm long



Leaves

- The leaves are a lush green colour and shaped like a shovel with a flat base
- They grow in a staggered, zig zag pattern along the stem
- Typically grow up to 20cm long



Stem

- Purple speckled stems with regular nodes (like Bamboo)
- Stems are hollow
- Can grow up to 3m in height
- In the Spring, new stems shoots are purple and resemble asparagus spears



New shoots in Spring

Facts

- The plant can grow up to 10cm each day in the Summer
- The Japanese knotweed's root system can grow to depths of 2 metres and can extend up to 7 metres horizontally from the plant
- It is strong enough to cause structural damage as it can grow through walls and concrete
- It can regrow from a tiny fragment and digging up the roots can make it grow further
- It can also survive composting or burning

