

## Background

- Japanese Knotweed, (*Fallopia japonica*), is one of the most invasive plants in Britain and is scheduled under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. It is an offence to plant or cause it to grow in the wild.
- Under the Environmental Protection Act (1990), Japanese Knotweed is classified as 'Controlled waste' and must be disposed of at a licensed landfill site in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991.
- It can colonise most habitats, and is able to grow through walls, tarmac and concrete.
- Fleshy red shoots appear in the early spring from an extensive underground network of rhizomes. Stems reach 3m by June, bearing cream flowers in July.
- Plants dieback at the first frost of the autumn and bare stems remain over winter.

## Spread

As seeds are non-viable, it spreads via fragments of roots and stem. It is transported along watercourses, or with human assistance as fragments in soil. Both cut stems and pieces of rhizome as small as 1cm can produce new plants.

## Control

Although integration of cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical controls is always recommended, in practice neither cutting, pulling nor grazing are practical ways of eradication. Once identified, the spread should be contained by good hygiene practice with plants and soil and a chemical eradication programme as advised by a BASIS qualified advisor. Many areas of the country have campaigns to eradicate this alien weed; contact your local council for more advice.

## Herbicides

- Always cut down the previous year's growth over winter before treating.
- Several products or mixture products containing picloram, triclopyr or glyphosate can be used. Timings, method of application and areas of use vary for each product. Always seek professional advice and follow label instructions.
- Relevant environment agency's approval required before use in aquatic areas.
- Monitor sites and re-treat as necessary, for a period of at least three years.



## Useful web sites:

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/  
default.aspx?  
page=13789](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=13789)

[www.environment-  
agency.gov.uk/  
homeandleisure/  
wildlife/31364.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/31364.aspx)

## Sensible Spraying

- When using a pesticide always follow the label instructions and ensure that application is carried out by a NPTC qualified operator
- Take care to avoid water pollution when mixing, filling, during application and disposal
- Check and calibrate your sprayer before use
- If you have any queries contact your BASIS qualified advisor at your supplier