

# Stop

# The Invasion



Photograph courtesy of Ken Chamberlain, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

## Japanese Knotweed

*Polygonum cuspidatum*

Report Sightings

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Photograph courtesy of Tom Heutte, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

### What is it?

Japanese knotweed, an escaped ornamental, is a shrubby perennial that was first introduced in the United States from Asia. It grows very aggressively along roadways, neglected gardens, streambeds, and in moist, wet places.

### Is it here yet?

Yes. It can be found throughout Washington State.

### Why should I care?

Japanese knotweed grows vigorously, creating dense colonies that make it hard or impossible for other native plants to survive. Its ability to out-compete other species results in an altered natural ecosystem. Once established, it is very difficult to get rid of.

### What should I do if I find one?

Do not purchase, plant, or trade this species. Contact your county noxious weed coordinator at [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb\\_county.htm](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb_county.htm). Report online at [www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml](http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml).

### How can we stop it?

To stop the spread of Japanese knotweed, care must be taken to prevent new plants from becoming established. New growth can sprout easily from very small fragments left behind, so when working to control or remove the plant make sure that all plant material is removed and then burned or dried. Various control methods have been documented. Visit the Washington Noxious Weed Control Board or Washington Department of Ecology Web sites for more information. This species is listed as a Class B noxious weed, meaning that it is designated for control in certain state regions (See <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/searchResults.asp?class=B>). Japanese knotweed also is on Washington's Noxious Weed Seed and Plant Quarantine list, meaning it is prohibited to transport, buy, sell, offer for sale, or distribute Japanese knotweed plants, plant parts, or seeds (Washington Administrative Code 16-752-610).



Photograph courtesy of Washington State Department of Agriculture - Snoqualmie

## What are its characteristics?

- Japanese knotweed can grow up to 4-8 feet tall.
- Its flowers are whitish with clusters that are longer than the leaves.
- The plants stems are reddish brown and hollow.
- The leaves are 4-6 inches long with a triangular tip and a blunt base.

## How do I distinguish it from native species?

Japanese knotweed can be confused with other knotweed species, but Japanese knotweed is much shorter than bohemian or giant knotweed.

## Where do I get more information?

- King County: [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/invasive-knotweeds/japanese-knotweed.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/invasive-knotweeds/japanese-knotweed.aspx)
- National Invasive Species Information Center: [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/knotweed.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/knotweed.shtml)
- Washington State Department of Ecology: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/aqua015.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/aqua015.html)
- Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/detail.asp?weed=103>
- Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board: [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/siteFiles/Polygonum\\_cuspidatum.pdf](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/siteFiles/Polygonum_cuspidatum.pdf)
- Washington State University: [www.pnwplants.wsu.edu/PlantDisplay.aspx?PlantID=54](http://www.pnwplants.wsu.edu/PlantDisplay.aspx?PlantID=54)

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