



Report this pest



Japanese knotweed

Why is it a pest?

Japanese knotweed, also known as Asiatic knotweed, grows rapidly from an extensive fleshy underground root system, forming dense thickets that can live for a long time.

They exclude other desirable species and prevent native seedlings from establishing.

Knotweed is a very hardy plant and difficult to control. Originally from Japan, knotweed is a very invasive pest plant in many parts of New Zealand.

It grows to form dense thickets that expand rapidly. It can choke waterways, as the thickets completely replace any other vegetation.



What does it look like?

- **Size:** A perennial shrub that forms dense thickets with numerous cane-like stems up to 2 metres high. The stems are hollow when mature and have a zig-zag appearance between each leaf node. The stems are hairless with a reddish tinge.
- **Leaves:** Oval and pointed, alternating, and up to 25 centimetres long.
- **Flower/seeds:** Small and white, clustered along short branches between December and April, followed by small (2.5–3 millimetres long) angled glossy brown seeds.
- **Root system:** They propagate from rhizomes (underground shoots) as well as from seeds.
- **Habitat:** Includes shrublands, urban areas, landfills and dumping areas, and waterways.

Common name:

Japanese knotweed

Scientific name:

Fallopia japonica

Management programme:

Organism of interest

There is no programme in place for an Organism of interest (OOI), but they are watch-listed.



**Report
this pest!**

If you have seen or suspect the presence of this pest, you **must report** the sighting to us at **orc.govt.nz/reportpests**

When can I spot it best?

Japanese knotweed is easiest to spot when its small white flowers are out in summer and autumn (December–April).



What are the rules?

There are no rules for landowners in Otago regarding Japanese knotweed.

Under the Otago Regional Pest Management Plan (2019–2029), it is only classified as an organism of interest, with sites being recorded for possible opportunities for control in the future.

Landowners/occupiers are encouraged to report Japanese knotweed on their properties, or sightings, using the reporting tool at orc.govt.nz/reportpests



What should I do?

Physical control:

- Dig out small patches and dispose at landfill or burn.

Chemical control:

- Cut the stump near the ground and paste year-round using a suitable herbicide gel containing either glyphosate, metsulfuron-methyl or triclopyr.
- Inject the stem year-round with metsulfuron-methyl.
- Spray foliage when the plant is actively growing from spring to autumn with a penetrant plus glyphosate, metsulfuron-methyl or triclopyr.
- Spray in spring, but a follow-up may be required in February or March.
- Check for regrowth every three months for at least two years and re-treat as necessary.

Caution: when using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed. **Disclaimer:** mention of product trade names does not endorse these products nor imply criticism of similar products not mentioned. The Otago Regional Council does not give any warranty that the information is accurate or complete or that it is suitable for all circumstances.

Report this pest



Help us find Japanese knotweed

You must notify the Otago Regional Council if you suspect the presence of this plant pest. **If you think you've seen Japanese knotweed:**



Note the location



Take a photo
(if possible)



Report this pest
at orc.govt.nz/reportpests

For more information, visit
orc.govt.nz/japaneseknotweed

