

# KNOTWEED ( JAPANESE/ASIATIC KNOTWEED ) ( AND GIANT KNOTWEED )

*Fallopia japonica* and *Fallopia sachalinensis*

## Management programme

Exclusion	<b>Eradication</b>	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
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## Impacts

Economic	Biodiversity	Soil resources	Water quantity/quality
Human health	Social and cultural wellbeing	Amenity/recreation	Animal welfare

## Objectives

Reduce the level of infestation of giant knotweed and Japanese/Asiatic knotweed within the Waikato region to zero density to prevent adverse effects and impacts.

## Why is it a pest?

Japanese/Asiatic and giant knotweed spread very quickly and invasively in new sites to form monocultural stands that exclude desirable species and prevent native seedlings from establishing. Their dense root (rhizome) systems can reach up to 3m deep, extending up to 7m from the parent plant. The roots produce chemicals that can also prevent the germination and growth of desirable plants.

Knotweeds can spread via their long-lived seeds (Japanese knotweed), and vegetatively from even small fragments of stem or root (for example, during floods and on drain cleaning machinery), enabling them to quickly establish in new areas. They usually grow in disturbed sites, urban areas, roadsides and along river margins. Knotweeds are very hardy and tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, temperatures, drought and salinity, however, they don't thrive in shade. Once established they are difficult to eradicate.

Knotweeds have the potential to narrow waterway channels, impeding water flow leading to siltation. They also impact on the recreational values of those waterways by obstructing access. Their tough shoots and roots can break through hard structures like gravel, tarmac and concrete causing damage to foundations, paving and roads, and flood prevention structures.

Knotweed occurs at sites in Taupiri, Karangahake (south Coromandel), Hamilton and Tamahere.

## Responsibility for control

**Waikato Regional Council is responsible for the control of knotweed within the Waikato region. If you think you've seen it, call us – don't try to control it yourself.**

- All persons shall inform Waikato Regional Council of the presence of knotweed in the Waikato region, within five working days of the presence first being suspected (rule NGB-1 of the *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2023*), and to liaise with the Waikato Regional Council in areas where control programmes are in place.

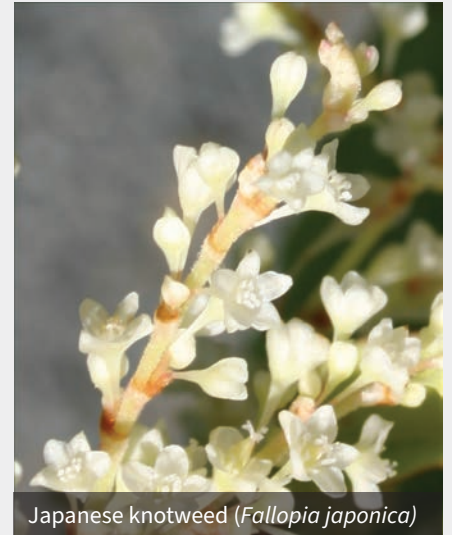
## Developers

- If knotweed is present on a property that is to be subdivided or developed, there are additional rules and requirements that apply under section 6.6 of the RPMP 2022-2032.

**Both knotweed species are banned from being sold, propagated, distributed, or included in commercial displays.**

## What does it look like?

Deep rooted, woody perennials that can grow up to 4m high.



Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)



Giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)

## Flower

- Produce masses of creamy white flowers.
- Flowers produced in erect branched flower heads (panicles) to 6cm long.
- Flowers December to March (Japanese knotweed) and November to April (giant knotweed).

## Fruit/seed

- Japanese knotweed fruit is a nut (about 3mm long) that is glossy brown, bluntly/angled.
- Giant knotweed doesn't produce seed in New Zealand.

## Help to stop the spread

**WARNING! Even tiny fragments of knotweed can form new plants.**

Knotweeds can be spread by soil movement, in garden waste, contaminated soil and on equipment like diggers and farm machinery. When disturbed, knotweeds break up easily into small fragments each of which can easily regrow. Take special care not to disturb it or move it to new sites.

## More information

### Advice

For advice and additional information on control methods, call our pest plant staff on freephone 0800 800 401.

Chemical company representatives, farm supply stores, garden centres or the Weedbusters website can also be good sources for advice.

### Publications

The following publications are available from the Waikato Regional Council. Contact us to request a copy (freephone 0800 800 401).

- National Pest Plant Accord (manual of plants banned from sale, propagation and distribution) (free)
- Plant Me Instead! (Plants to use in place of pest plants) (free)

### Web

- Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032 – [waikatoregion.govt.nz/RPMP](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/RPMP)
- Waikato Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032 – [waikatoregion.govt.nz/biosecurity-strategy](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/biosecurity-strategy)



## Leaves/stems



- Japanese knotweed fruit is a nut (about 3mm long) that is glossy brown, bluntly/angled.
  - Long triangular leaves with pointed tips, up to 15cm long.
  - Leaves have <14 pairs of lateral veins.
  - Leaf stalk is dark crimson.
  - Has zigzagging stems (canes), raised at the nodes, that are hairless and reddish-purple when young. When mature they are hollow with purple speckles.
  - Plants are deciduous, and the stems die back to the root base in winter. Old canes can take up to three years to decompose



- Giant knotweed doesn't produce seed in New Zealand.
  - Long narrow, heart-shaped deep or bright green leaves up to 30cm long.
  - Leaves have >14 pairs of lateral veins.
  - Leaves smooth on top but sometimes covered in fine hairs underneath.
  - Leaf stalk is reddish.
  - Stems are thick, hollow, often green to reddish-brown

Plants are deciduous, dying back to the root base in winter.