

Himalayan knotweed

Persicaria wallichii

Notify Council

We would like to know if you've come across any Himalayan knotweed in the wild, especially on Stewart Island/Rakiura. Please report any sightings to Environment Southland.

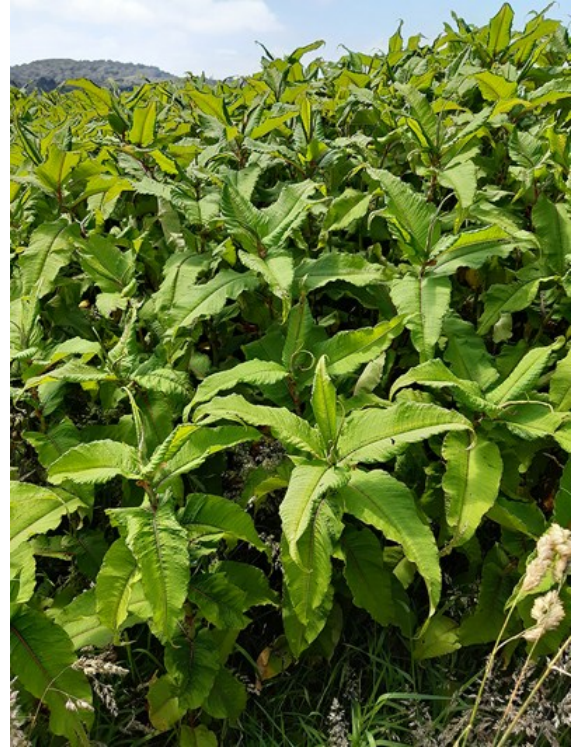
What does it look like?

Himalayan knotweed is a multi-stemmed, thicket-forming, perennial shrub. Stems are slender and hollow and zig-zag from leaf node to leaf node, up to 1.8m high. The leaves are heart to lancet-shaped, alternating, up to 40cm long. Stems die in autumn and re-grow in spring from woody rhizomes. Flowers are small, white or pink, clustered along short branches.

Why is it a problem?

Knotweed is capable of excluding other species and prevents native seedlings establishing. They tolerate wet to moderately dry conditions and warm to cold temperatures but are intolerant of shade. Shrublands and waterways are vulnerable to invasion. The plant adversely impacts amenity and conservation values in riparian margins and other disturbed areas.

Knotweed is very strong and can grow directly through concrete, damage infrastructure including buildings, foundations, plumbing and roads. Repairs and eradication costs can be very high if the plants are not controlled quickly and effectively.



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Control methods

Physical control:

- Dig out small patches (all year round). Dispose of at refuse transfer station or burn.
- Weed mat: leave for 6 months minimum. Dig or spray surviving shoots.

Herbicide control:

- Stump swab (all year round): glyphosate (250ml/L) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/L) or triclopyr 600 EC (200ml/L).
- Stem injection (all year round): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (50g/L, 5ml per stem).
- Spray (spring-autumn): glyphosate (200ml/10L) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/L) or a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (6ml/L) or triclopyr 600 EC (6ml/L). Add penetrant.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

Related links

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/himalayan-knotweed>

CABI <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/120210>

Plant Life - UK <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/plant-fungi-species/himalayan-knotweed>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/persicaria-wallichii/>

Summary of rules

Stewart Island/Rakiura Only:

If you detect or suspect the presence on Stewart Island/Rakiura or any other island within site led area of Himalayan knotweed, you must immediately report its presence and location to Environment Southland.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 26).

No person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any Himalayan knotweed.

For full rules please see Sections 52 and 53 of the [Biosecurity Act 1993](#).

Management programme

Notifiable organism

Site-led programme

Organisms of interest

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=600>

Report this Pest/Weed

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=600>