

Toolbox Talk - Environment

Japanese Knotweed



DID YOU KNOW?

Japanese Knotweed can grow 10cm a day forming dense clumps over 2-3 metres high, which crowd out native plants

The plant spreads rapidly because any fragments of its stem or root will grow to form a new plant (a piece as small as 0.8 grams can regenerate) making it very difficult to eradicate.

Japanese Knotweed grows in any type of soil and is often found along railways, river-banks, roads and particularly on derelict sites it can grow through joints in tarmac and mortar

IDENTIFICATION

- It forms dense clumps and grows up to three metres tall; the stem is hollow, looks like bamboo and breaks easily
- In spring it is fleshy and red tinged and in summer it is green with purple speckles
- Flowers are cream coloured and appear in drooping clusters towards the end of August; the plant dies before November often leaving behind the upright brown, hollow, woody stems



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Environmental harm: it kills native plants by producing a dense canopy of leaves. Although not toxic to humans or animals, it offers a poor habitat for insects, birds and mammals

Prosecution: it is illegal “to plant or otherwise encourage” the growth of Japanese Knotweed. This could include cutting the plant or roots and disturbing or moving surrounding soil that may contain root material.

Structural damage: the plant is strong enough to grow through foundations, walls, roads and drainage pipework.

DO'S & DON'TS



If you suspect Japanese Knotweed stop all work within seven metres and report it



Enter an identified area of Japanese Knotweed during treatment



Excavate or move any soil from within 7m of a Japanese Knotweed plant without instruction



Move plant through any area containing Japanese Knotweed



Keeping our team safe



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