

## Japanese Knotweed

*Polygonum cuspidatum*



A shrubby herbaceous perennial which dies back after a frost leaving dead bamboo-like stems behind.

Fairly common in all three counties.

Grows to ten feet tall. Tiny greenish-white flowers, occur in attractive, branched sprays in summer. Winged

fruit appears soon after.

Can tolerate adverse growing conditions including full shade, high temperature, high salinity and flooding.

Forms dense stands along streams, ditches, roadsides and in waste places and old home sites.

### Japanese Knotweed - Control Methods

**Cutting** – Repeated cutting of all stems can be effective for small stands. A minimum of three cuttings in one growing season are required to reduce rhizome reserves.

**April - October**

**Foliar Spray** – A combination of cutting, or cut stump treatments in late spring or early summer, and foliar spray on late summer re-sprouts has proven most effective. Care must be taken to remove cut stems to a dry sunny location away from a water body as they can resprout in moist conditions. Cut all stems in spring while plant is actively growing. Apply a 2% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr and water in a 0.5% non-ionic surfactant to all foliage that resprouts from cut stems in summer before the plant flowers.

**Cut Stem and Remove - May**

**Foliar Spray – July - August**

Even following control, as long as some rhizomes remain in the soil *P. cuspidatum* returns once management is relaxed. Constant monitoring of sites is required. Multiple year treatments will be required.