

Himalayan Knotweed

(Persicaria wallichii)



This Asian herbaceous perennial shrub is another member of the Polygonaceae family which is often mistaken for Japanese Knotweed.

Each spring, bamboo-like stems emerge, growing rapidly to achieve a height of 1.5-2.0 metres when fully grown. These clumps or thickets are known as 'stands'. Leaves come off nodular points on these stems. In general, these leaves are elongated/elliptical, bright green and, as the leaf stalks are often reddish in colour, there can be the appearance of a red dorsal stripe along the mid-rib.

In autumn the plant produces upright clusters of creamy white/pink flowers. If seeds are produced, they are generally believed to be sterile and not viable. Like Japanese knotweed, this species does not spread by seed in the UK, it spreads by movement/relocation of viable root and plant fragments; this is known as being vegetative.

Once flowering is complete, the plant enters senescence where it dies back for the winter. Stems often dry out resulting in brown bamboo-like canes that will often stay erect until the following growing season before decaying. This species has a dense rhizome (root) network and regeneration can result from small rhizome fragments.

Typical growth phases of species

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dead Canes			New Growth		Growth Matures			Flowers		Vegetation Dies Back	

Main Problems

This species typically demonstrates a rapid rate of spread within suitable environments.

The dense coverage damages the environment by reducing biodiversity (flora and fauna) by shading out.

It is recommended that this plant species is managed in the same way as Japanese Knotweed.

Himalayan Knotweed Images



Similar Species



Japanese Knotweed



Broadleaf dock



Rosebay willowherb