

## Knotweed Species

**Japanese Knotweed:** (JK) FALL JAP (*Fallopia japonica*)

**Bohemian Knotweed:** (BO) FALL BOH (*Fallopia x bohemica*)

**Giant Knotweed:** (GK) FALL SAC (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)

**Himalayan Knotweed:** (PO) POLY POL (*Polygonum polystachyum*)

Rhizomatous, semi-woody, herbaceous perennial that may grow 1-5metres high.



### ***Distribution***

Very limited distribution in the Southern Interior.

**Please report all occurrences.**

**Flowers:** small, white/green flowers grow in showy, plume-like, branched clusters along the stem and leaf axils (joints).

**Leaves:** Predominantly heart- to triangular-shaped on all species except Himalayan, which are elongated and tapered. Leaves on all species except giant knotweed are 8-10 cm wide and 15 cm in length. Giant knotweed leaves are generally twice the size of the other 3 species. A distinguishing feature for Japanese knotweed is the zigzag pattern in which leaves are arranged along the plant's arching stems.

**Stems:** Stems, or canes, are hollow with varying thicknesses, upright, and bamboo-like with reddish-brown/red speckles and thin, papery sheaths. Stems are generally 1-5 m in height and grow in large, dense thickets. Stems may persist through the winter as bare, reddish-brown stalks.

**Fruits:** Production of fertile seeds is rare in most knotweed species due to a disproportionate ratio of female to male plants: Japanese being female; Giant being male; and Bohemian being the offspring of the two. Bohemian knotweed produces viable seeds that are dispersed along riparian areas via the water column.

**Manual Treatment:** Mowing and cutting may be effective if done close to the ground, twice per month between April and August, then monthly until the first frost. Repeat this treatment for at least 5 years to exhaust root reserves. Mechanically controlled areas should be monitored throughout the growing season to ensure new infestations do not develop from root fragments.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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**Habitat:** Thrive on freshly disturbed soil in roadside ditches, low-lying areas, irrigation canals, and other water drainage systems. Also found in riparian areas, along stream banks, and in other areas with high soil moisture. Able to grow in partial shade or full sun.



**Reproduction:** Perennials that spread rapidly vegetatively. Rhizomatous root system may extend from a parent plant up to 20 m laterally and to a depth of 3 m. Root and stem fragments as small as 1 cm (or 0.7 grams) can form new plant colonies. Fresh stems produce shoots and roots when buried in a soil medium or floated in water. Stems submerged in water can produce viable plants within 6 days.



**Dispersal:** Primarily from root (rhizomes) and stem fragments that are dispersed by human activities or by water to downstream areas.

