

EA-SOUTH  
SOUTH WEST REGION ADDRESSES

**REGIONAL OFFICE**  
Environment Agency  
South West Region  
Manley House  
Kestrel Way  
Exeter EX2 7LQ  
Tel: 01392 444 000  
Fax: 01392 444 238

**SOUTH WESSEX AREA OFFICE**  
Environment Agency  
Rivers House  
Sunrise Business Park  
Higher Shaftesbury Road  
Blandford DT11 8ST  
Tel: 01258 456 080  
Fax: 01258 455 998

**CORNWALL AREA OFFICE**  
Environment Agency  
Sir John Moore House  
Victoria Square  
Bodmin PL31 1EB  
Tel: 01208 78301  
Fax: 01208 78321

**DEVON AREA OFFICE**  
Environment Agency  
Exminster House  
Miller Way, Exminster  
Devon EX6 8AS  
Tel: 01392 444 000  
Fax: 01392 316 016

**NORTH WESSEX AREA OFFICE**  
Environment Agency  
Rivers House, East Quay  
Bridgwater TA6 4YS  
Tel: 01278 457 333  
Fax: 01278 452 985



[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE  
0845 933 3111**

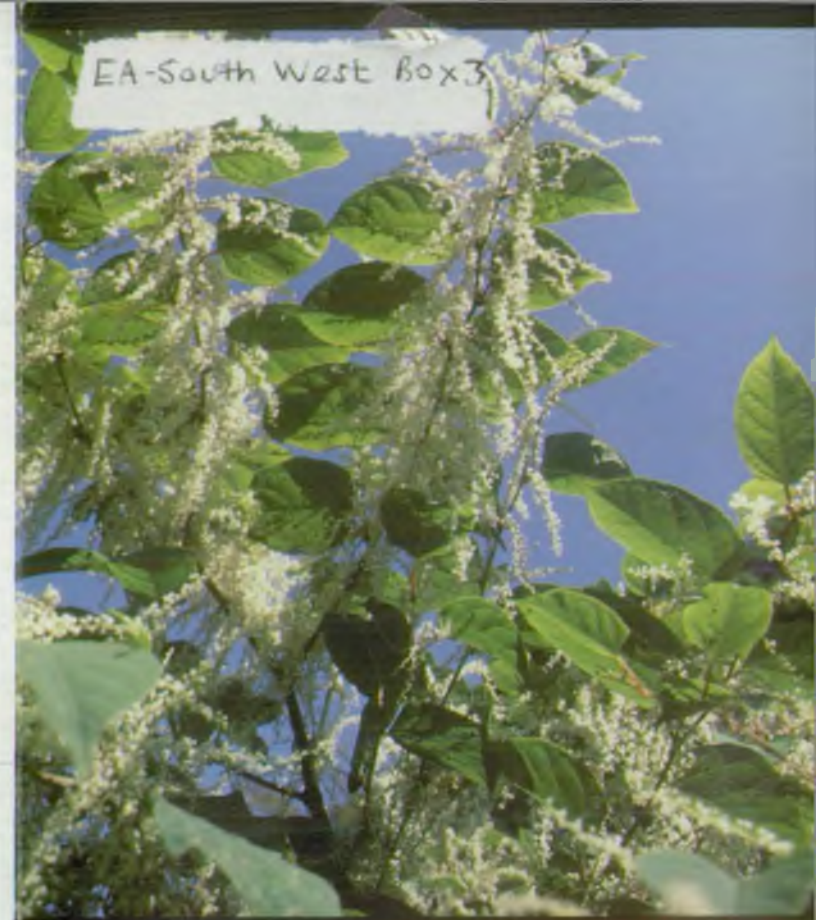
**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
FLOODLINE  
0845 988 1188**

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EMERGENCY HOTLINE  
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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

EA-South West Box 3



**Japanese Knotweed**  
**Alien invader**  
What you need to know



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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If you see this plant  
please help us map the  
coverage within Devon by  
contacting Devon  
Biological Records Centre  
on Tel: 01392 279244

We wish to thank Trevor Realls and the  
Cornish Forum for the text and photographs



## Japanese Knotweed

# Alien invader

### Introduction

Japanese knotweed - *Fallopia japonica* was introduced to the UK in the mid Nineteenth Century as an ornamental garden plant.



It has now become a serious problem in a range of habitats by out-competing the native flora.

Hard surfaces such as tarmac are often damaged by knotweed growth. There have been numerous instances of knotweed growing through the floors of houses, occasionally even through the foundations!

### THE LAW

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act has made it illegal to spread Japanese knotweed
- Contaminated soil must be disposed of at an Environment Agency Licensed Landfill Site

### IDENTIFICATION

- Early spring - red/purple shoots
- Canes grow up to 3 metres tall with leaves
- White flowers occur late summer/autumn



### CONTROL

- Early identification of contaminated land is essential
- Effective control can be obtained by using a glyphosate based herbicide
- Control using a herbicide takes at least three years
- Approval for herbicide applications must be obtained from the Environment Agency prior to use when near water

### SPREAD

Japanese knotweed has been spread by vegetative means, e.g.

- Root (rhizome) fragments and base of the stem (crown).
- River bank erosion flytipping and mechanical flails have all played a significant part in the spread.
- Regeneration occurs from pieces of plant the size of a penny.



### Knotweed don'ts

- ~~X~~ Do not fly tip rubbish contaminated with Japanese knotweed
- ~~X~~ Do not accept contaminated soil
- ~~X~~ Do not mow or flail Japanese knotweed

### Knotweed dos

- ✓ Do follow the Environment Agency Code of Practice - Available from the Devon Biology Team 01392 444000
- ✓ Do use herbicides safely and effectively
- ✓ Do co-operate over control of Japanese knotweed