

Japanese Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed is a non native weed which is highly invasive and capable of exposing weaknesses in buildings, foundations, concrete and tarmac and taking over your garden space. We want to know where it is!

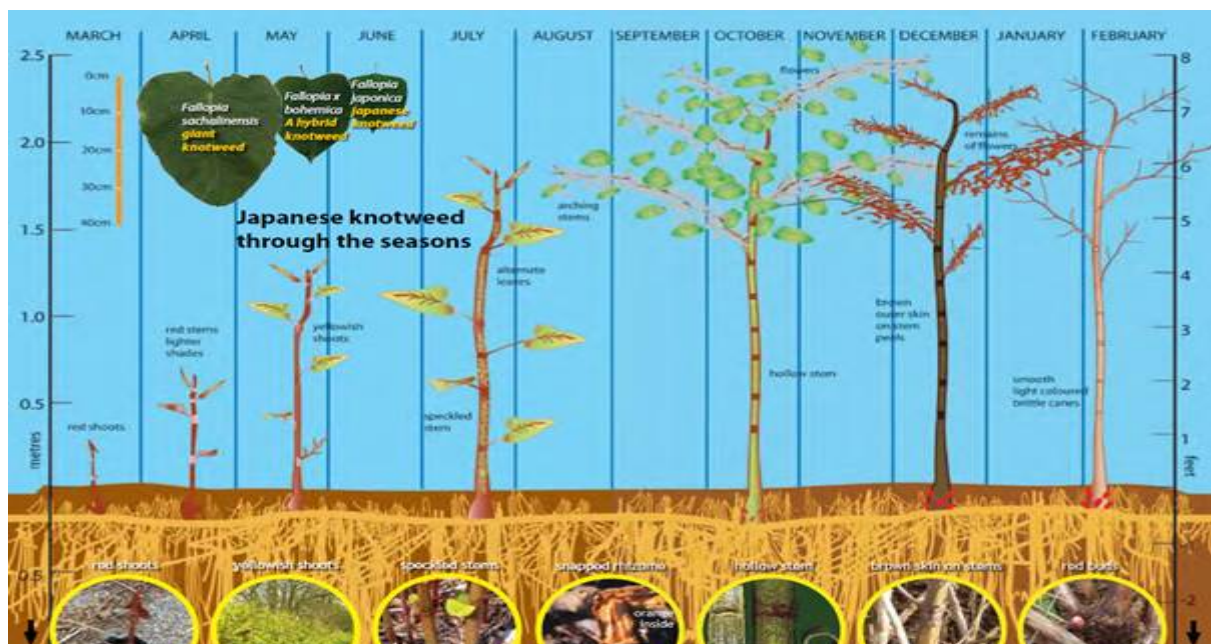
Why is it a problem?

- Causes damage to buildings & hard surfaces.
- Difficult to control because it **spreads rapidly** and **tiny fragments can form new plants**.
- It outcompetes native plants harming native ecosystems.
- Impacts on the ability of our tenants to grow garden produce.
- Affected gardens offer a much smaller amenity space for play areas etc.
- It is aesthetically unsightly.

Legal liability

- All parts of the plant are controlled waste and must be disposed of correctly.
- Causing it to spread into the wild is an **offence**.

What is it?



What not to do

✘ Don't Cut back the plant

The weed can regenerate from cuttings as small as 0.7 grams (smaller than a one pence piece), so cutting the plant could lead to mass spreading, making the issue much worse.

✘ Don't Dig Out

Digging out is possible on a small scale but unless done thoroughly it cannot be guaranteed to be successful. Additionally the root/rhizome fragments and associated soil are classed as 'controlled waste' so cannot be removed from the site, except to licensed disposal locations. It is recommended that removal is carried out by a licensed contractor to dispose of all the soil and plant matter that is dug out.

✘ Do Not Set on Fire

Burning knotweed down will not kill it, it will only destroy the above growing part of the plant, it will regrow shortly afterwards and may encourage the plant to spread.

✘ Do not put in your garden waste

If cuttings are created please notify MVH. As the plant can regrow from as small as a few millimetres long, placing in organic waste could lead to a massive spreading problem. The plant is classed as '**controlled waste**' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and should be disposed of at a licenced landfill site.



What to do

✓ **Notify Merthyr Valley Homes**

We would like to get an understanding of where Japanese Knotweed is so if you think that you have seen a plant that resembles the pictures please can you tell us where in the form below and we will map occurrences and get our surveyors to confirm and create a plan of action to treat the infestation.

✓ **Use weed killer responsibly on it?**

Weed killer if used properly can be effective on Japanese knotweed. There are several 'Off the Shelf' products that can be used to control the growth of this plant. Look for a weed killing product that contains 'Glyphosate' this is the chemical this helps kill the living plant tissue. Unfortunately one spray will not be enough to kill the plant and its root system, it can take 8-12 sprays spread over 2-3 years, even with this frequency of spraying there is no guarantee that the Japanese knotweed will be fully controlled. If sprayed with weed killer following the manufacturer's recommendations every 6-8 weeks during the plants growing season (May-Oct), the plant should be kept in check and should begin to die.

