

Exmoor Knotweed Control Project

Identification of Japanese and Himalayan knotweed

Both Japanese and Himalayan knotweed are quite easy to identify:

- Japanese knotweed has heart-shaped leaves, carried on stems in a zig-zag pattern.
- Himalayan knotweed has longer, spear-like leaves.
- Flowers of both species are creamy white and appear in late summer.
- Forms dense stands of tall canes during the summer, up to 3 metres high.
- Scattered young shoots may be seen in spring/summer where new growth is establishing or previously treated sites are growing back.
- Dies back over the autumn and winter, but the dead canes are still evident.
- Mature canes are hollow and have a characteristic pattern of purple specks.

Japanese knotweed



Alternate leaves on



Young growth in spring
zig-zag stems



Dense stands can be seen in summer



Creamy white flowers in summer



Dead canes in late autumn/winter, or following
successful treatment

Himalayan knotweed



Long, spear-like leaves



Small, scattered shoots



Dense stands grow in the summer



Flowering in summer

About the project

The Exmoor Knotweed Control Project is jointly sponsored by the Environment Agency, Natural England, National Trust and Exmoor National Park Authority. The overall aim is to control knotweed (Japanese, Himalayan and giant knotweed, and associated hybrid species) within the National Park and its associated river catchments.

Any new sites should be reported to:
Exmoor National Park Authority
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