

# Himalayan knotweed

*Persicaria wallichii*

Invasive: Medium impact

## Species profile

- Habitat:** Terrestrial.
- Distribution in Ireland:** Scattered distribution but locally abundant in many places.
- Status:** Established.
- Family name:** Polygonaceae.
- Reproduction:** Spreads by rhizomes and vegetative propagation.

## Identifying features

- Leaf type:** Large lanceolate type leaf often with a reddish mid-rib.
- Flowers:** Small white flowers appearing from a green/red stem.
- Stem:** Green stem becoming red nearer the flowering heads. Similar to bamboo in appearance.
- Roots:** Roots are shallow making it easy to pull up.
- Size:** Plant can grow up to 1.5 metre (approx 5ft).



New Himalayan knotweed plant developing -  
GBNNS Crown Copyright 2009



A stand of Himalayan knotweed along a roadside - N. Marchant



Bamboo like stems of Himalayan knotweed -  
N. Marchant



# Himalayan Knotweed

Invasive: Medium impact

## Threats

Can form dense stands that outcompete native species.

Die back in the winter can leave areas vulnerable to erosion.

Cutting of the plant without proper site management could cause the plant to spread further.

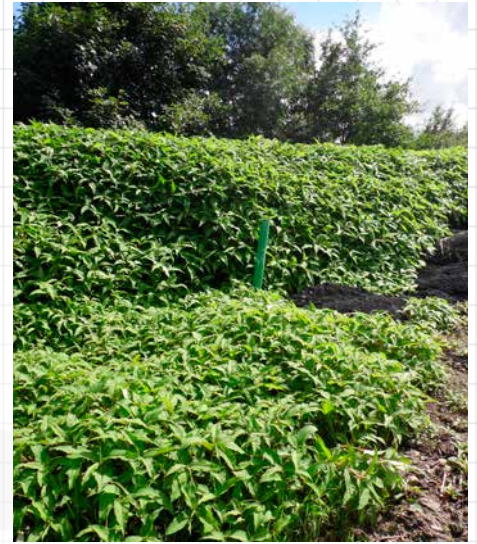
## Similar species

**Summer – Autumn:** Flowers in late summer into early autumn, August to September.

**Winter:** Species dies back in the winter, leaving brittle brown stems.

## Similar species

The dense stands at a distance could be mistaken for other knotweeds, but leaf shape and size is a distinguishing feature.



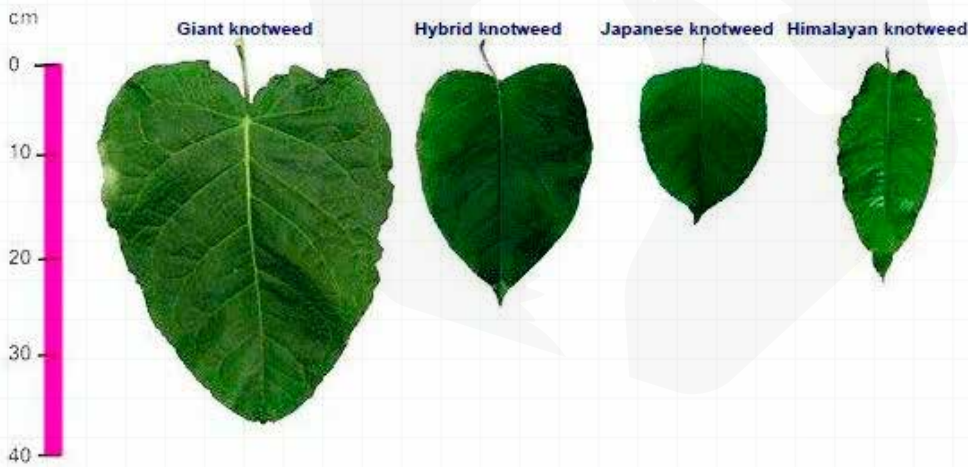
Himalayan knotweed forming a dense stand which is spreading further out onto the bareground - o. duffy



Small white flowering heads of Himalayan knotweed - RPS Group GBNNSS



Small white flowers of Himalayan knotweed - N. Marchant



Comparison of knotweed leaves - Cornwall.gov

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



Produced with funding from The Heritage Council  
and the EPA STRIVE Programme 2007-2013

View Ireland's distribution of this  
species on <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

National Biodiversity Data Centre fact sheet.  
Text: Colette O' Flynn & Oisín Duffy (Version 1) November 2013.

