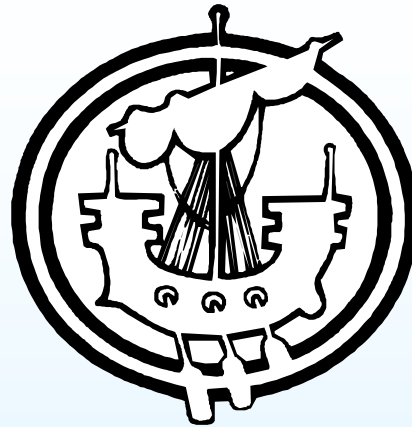


Further Advice

It is not a legal requirement to report or to control the growth of Japanese Knotweed on your property however, you are strongly advised to contact the Comhairle's Environmental Health Section, using the contact information provided, and report your suspicions that it may be growing on your property (or indeed elsewhere).



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Development Department
Sandwick Road
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Isle of Lewis HS1 2BW

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JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Identification and Treatment



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Tel. 01851 822 694

IDENTIFICATION

- **Stem:** Dense cane-like stems that can grow to 2-3 metres. Red and green in colour.
- **Leaves:** Green, heart-shaped, with a flat base and up to 120mm long. The leaves alternate along the branch.
- **Flowers:** Creamy clusters borne on the tips of most stems. Flowering generally occurs between August and October.
- **Roots:** Consists of rhizomes which are yellow when cut.
- During the Spring red shoots will appear and can grow up to 2cm per day.
- In the Summer the stems can grow up to 3 metres tall with the flowers opening in August time.
- During the winter the plants die back leaving orange/brown hollow stems.



ISSUES RELATING TO JAPANESE KNOTWEED

- Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* is a highly invasive plant that can grow up to 3 metres in a single season, rapidly dominating native plant species.
- Knotweed can cause structural damage of buildings, roads and pavements.
- The weed has the ability to grow up to 7 metres away from and 3 metres below the parent plant. The root system (rhizome) is hard to eradicate and less than 1gram of the rhizome can lead to new plant growth.
- Japanese Knotweed is classed as Controlled Waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and can only be disposed of at licensed landfill sites.
- Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause the weed to grow in the wild.



TREATMENT

- 2 sprays of the plant per year are advisable to ensure the plant is effectively treated, once in the Spring when it starts growing and again when it starts to die back in the Winter.
- Treatment using herbicides is not costly but it can take a number of years to eradicate the plant.
- Normal Glyphosate based products are best for spraying as they are easily broken down in soil and harmless to animals.
- Treatment with herbicides can only be undertaken in the growth season when there is leafy green material present
- If the area you intend to treat is near a watercourse you must contact your local SEPA office, James Square Stornoway, 01851 70 6477.
- Japanese Knotweed should not be composted or disposed of with household waste, or in your organic bin, it is an offence to do so.

For further information on the identification and treatment of Japanese Knotweed please contact; **Ruth Macaskill, Environmental Health Officer, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar** using the contact information provided.

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