

# JAPANESE KNOTWEED

## *Fallopia japonica*



Japanese Knotweed is a tenacious invasive perennial shrub-like herb that grows 3-4 m (9-13ft) tall; the rhizomes spread rapidly and can re-grow annually from tiny stem and root fragments. Young shoots look like red asparagus and the stems resemble hollow, green bamboo with reddish/purple speckles. The leaves are egg-to heart-shaped with a pointed tip. It flowers in Aug/Sept with small white to greenish clusters. Stalks can push through thick pavement, damage septic fields, pipes and concrete foundations.

### HOW TO REMOVE:

- Studies on a natural biological treatment of this plant are ongoing and hopefully a control method will be found in the near future.
- Manual cutting is not recommended, but if you so choose, do so with extreme caution due to likelihood of spread. Sometimes disturbing the site makes it worse.
- If you are dealing with medium to large sites, seek professional advice. Any treatment method takes commitment over several years. Shading out with conifers helps in long term management.
- Avoid transporting any part of the plant or roots.
- All cuttings must be completely dried in place off the ground or on a tarp and then burned, where and when permitted.
- There are no green waste disposal facilities for Japanese Knotweed. **DO NOT COMPOST**, transport, or illegally dump.
- Alternative plants: Black Elderberry, False Solomon's Seal, Goat's Beard, Peegee Hydrangea.
- Additional info: <http://bcinvasives.ca/resources/tips/knotweed>



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