

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## Knotweeds

(*Reynoutria* spp. and *Persicaria wallichii*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Japanese (*Reynoutria japonica*), giant (*R. sachalinensis*), bohemian (*R. x bohemica*) and Himalayan (*Persicaria wallichii*) knotweeds are perennial herbs native to Asia.
- Resembles bamboo, growing in clusters or dense stands 1.5m to 6m tall.
- Stems are hollow and can range from green with reddish-purple nodes and speckles to entirely reddish-purple turning greyish-brown and brittle in winter.
- Leaves are heart- to triangular-shaped, except Himalayan which are lance-shaped, with pointed tips and smooth edges.
- Flowers are a white, greenish-white or pinkish-white and grow in drooping or upright clusters near the end of the stems.
- Thick, woody rhizomes form an extensive root system that can spread up to 20m laterally and 3m deep.



Japanese knotweed leaves  
BC Government

**PRIMARY THREATS: Knotweeds outcompete native plants, creating monocultures, increasing potential of erosion or slope instability, restricting access for humans and wildlife. Knotweeds can damage infrastructure including buildings, bridges, retaining walls, drains and pipes and capped surfaces.**



New shoots and dead stems  
BC Government

#### BIOLOGY & SPREAD

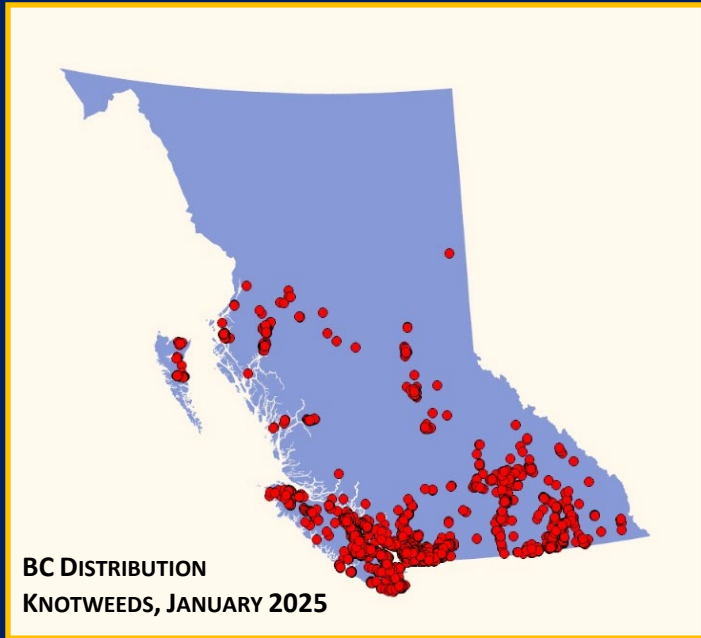
- Reproduces primarily by rhizomes or small stem and root fragments but can sometimes reproduce from seed.
- Knotweeds are spread through the movement of contaminated garden material, soil, gravel, sand or construction waste.
- Fragments and seeds can be transported on clothing, boots, equipment, tool, vehicles and machinery.
- Tides, flood events, seasonal river flows and bank erosion can disturb knotweed plants and spread fragments into new areas.

For more information:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/publications/key\\_to\\_identification\\_of\\_invasive\\_knotweeds\\_in\\_british\\_columbia.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/publications/key_to_identification_of_invasive_knotweeds_in_british_columbia.pdf)



# Knotweeds (*Reynoutria ssp.* and *Persicaria wallichii*)



## HABITAT

- Knotweeds thrive in moist, disturbed soils, like ditches riparian areas and streambanks but can often be found on waste sites, vacant lots, rights-of-ways, roadsides and on stockpiled material.
- Knotweeds can establish in highly disturbed, saline, shaded, rocky or paved areas.

## DISTRIBUTION & Status

- All 4 species of knotweed are designated Provincial Noxious Weeds under the B.C. *Weed Control Act*.
- Knotweeds are found throughout the southern two thirds of BC.

## REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)



Himalayan knotweed in bloom  
BC Government

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Plant** native alternatives for bank stability
- **Remove** all seeds and plant parts from clothes, gear, equipment and vehicles before leaving an infested area
- **Ensure** soil and fill material are from knotweed free area prior to moving
- **Dispose** of any knotweed or infested material at an approved facility



New shoots growing through asphalt  
BC Government

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>

