

Asiatic knotweed

Fallopia japonica

Description

Shrub to 2 m high with many cane like stems.

Deciduous (loses its leaves in winter).

Stems: Arching, reddish stems, hollow when mature.

Flowers: Small white flowers in drooping sprays in summer.

Origin

Native of Japan and Northern China.

Introduced to New Zealand as a garden plant.

Where is it found?

Asiatic knotweed grows in any conditions but often along waterways.

How does it spread?

It spreads by suckering from rapidly growing underground stems (rhizomes).

Often spread by root fragments in water, soil or garden waste.

Why is it a problem?

Asiatic knotweed grows to form dense thickets which expand rapidly. It may choke waterways, damage building foundations and roads as the thickets completely displace any other vegetation. It is very difficult to control.



Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Asiatic knotweed is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any Asiatic knotweed on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread asiatic knotweed in the Bay of Plenty.

Assistance may be available from Bay of Plenty Regional Council by way of approved programmes.

CAUTION: When using herbicide please READ THE LABEL thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

How do I get rid of it?

Manual

It is not possible to remove manually as every fragment of root must be removed.

Spraying

This plant needs to be sprayed with a specialised herbicide to achieve good control.

If you think you have found this plant please contact Bay of Plenty Regional Council land management staff for advice.

For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer

