**Himalayan Knotweed (**_Persicaria wallichii_**)  
This Asian herbaceous perennial shrub is another member of the Polygonaceae family which is often mistaken for Japanese Knotweed.

Each spring, bamboo-like stems emerge, growing rapidly to achieve a height of 1.5-2.0 metres when fully grown. These clumps or thickets are known as ‘stands’. Leaves come off nodular points on these stems. In general, these leaves are elongated/elliptical, bright green and, as the leaf stalks are often reddish in colour, there can be the appearance of a red stripe along the mid-rib.

The plant produces upright clusters of creamy white/pink flowers in autumn. Like Japanese knotweed, this species does not spread by seed in the UK, it spreads by movement/relocation of viable root and plant fragments; this is known as being vegetative. Studies show that seed production in the UK is rare and that some populations appear to be sterile.

Once flowering is complete, the plant enters senescence when it dies back during the winter. Stems often dry out resulting in brown bamboo-like canes that will often stay erect until the following growing season before decaying. This species has a dense rhizome (root) network and regeneration can result from small rhizome fragments.

**Typical of species**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dead Canes</td>
<td>New Growth</td>
<td>Growth Matures</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>Vegetation dies back</td>
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[www.smartknotweed.co.uk](http://www.smartknotweed.co.uk)
Himalayan Knotweed

Main Problems

This species typically demonstrates a rapid rate of spread within suitable environments.

The dense coverage damages the environment by reducing biodiversity (both flora and fauna) by shading out.

It is recommended that this plant species is managed in the same way as Japanese Knotweed.

Images

Similar Species

Japanese knotweed  Broadleaf dock  Rosebay willowherb

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