

## Japanese Knotweed

If you suspect you have Japanese Knotweed on your property you should take care not to allow it to spread. Even the smallest piece of rhizome, stem or crown can potentially form a new plant. Compost Japanese Knotweed separately, preferably on strong plastic sheeting so it is not in contact with the ground. Check the compost regularly to ensure it is not sprouting. Ensure that it is fully decomposed before spreading it on the garden. Do not shred or strim the plant as this could cause rapid spread. Mowing is only advised if you have a collecting box for mowings which can then be composted. Do not dig Japanese Knotweed as this is known to increase stem density and it encourages sprouting and spread.

Hand pulling or cutting the plant is a good method of control but will take several years for the rhizome to be exhausted and die. Leave the material on a plastic sheet to dry and then burn it. Do this on site to prevent spread. The cutting and pulling of stems encourages the plant to send up more shoots which can in turn be pulled.

You can also use chemical herbicides, glyphosate is recommended but treatment will need to be ongoing and may take several years depending on how established the colony is.

Avoid digging within 7 meters of a colony of Japanese Knotweed, and avoid moving the soil around the garden as the soil could contain rhizome.

Do not take Japanese Knotweed material to your local recycling centre, Japanese Knotweed has to be treated as 'controlled waste'. Do not remove Japanese Knotweed material from the site unless you have made a prior arrangement with a licensed landfill site for deep burial. Treatment on site is the preferred option; however Ardley Landfill can accept Japanese Knotweed. Please contact the site on 01869 343459 for more information. In addition to this landfill, Dix Pit (01865 880782) and Sutton Courtenay (01235 847272) can also accept Japanese Knotweed.

(Information provided by the Devon Knotweed Forum at [www.devon.gov.uk/knotweed](http://www.devon.gov.uk/knotweed))