

Himalayan Knotweed - (*Persicaria wallichii*)

Habitat: Terrestrial.

Family name: Polygonaceae



Description:

Himalayan knotweed is a rhizomatous perennial herb producing thick, hollow, erect stems easily exceeding one meter in length. Via its rhizomes it can form



dense colonies. It may also spread asexually if sections of the stem containing rooting nodes are separated and moved to a new area; chopping the plant into small pieces does not keep it from growing.

Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*) is often mistaken for Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) as bears similar long lance-like leaves. However, the leaf edge is not as serrated as Himalayan balsam and its stems are bamboo-like, similar to other knotweeds.



As its name suggests, Himalayan knotweed is native to the Himalayas, with a native range spanning from Afghanistan to South-Western China.



Himalayan knotweed has a long, tapering leaf.

The stems are normally green, although they can have alternating red-green colouration.

Brown sheaths can be found at the base of the leaf stem.

Flowers can range in colour from white to pink and are loosely clustered.

The hairy leaves are up to 20 centimeters long. The branching inflorescence is an array of lacy clusters of many small white flowers.



Himalayan knotweed is a perennial plant and dies back in the winter months.



Knotweed winter canes

Reproduction:

It spreads vegetatively in the Ireland from cuttings and fragments.

Himalayan knotweed is not as common in Ireland as the other knotweed species, although it is considered to be in expansive in some localised areas.

