



Information on Japanese Knotweed

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for the implementation of the Wildlife Acts and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011), both of which prohibit the spreading of invasive species.

In law, control of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed is a matter for landowners. While this Department carries out considerable work on controls in National Parks and Nature Reserves – for example on the rhododendron threat in Killarney National Park - it does not have the resources required to extend such work into urban areas or the wider countryside. Likewise, the NPWS is not resourced to provide grant funding to homeowners for the removal or eradication of Japanese Knotweed.

There is considerable work being carried out at present by a range of agencies in this area, including a number of local authorities. The Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) led by Transport Infrastructure Ireland is a 5 million Euro project, over 5 years, aimed at managing invasive knotweed and other non-native invasive plant species on the national road network and its interactions with regional roads. The project involves collaboration with Department of Transport.

While, at this time, there is no national eradication plan, this Department will consider options for improved national co-ordination of work on invasive species, including increased cooperation between local and central government.

NPWS has a regional network of conservation officers and wildlife rangers who may, in certain cases, be in a position to provide practical advice on invasive species. For details of the NPWS staff in your locality, please see the relevant section of our website, <https://www.npws.ie/contact-us>. However, NPWS regional staff cover geographically large and diverse areas of work throughout the country and may not be in a position to attend immediately to queries relating to invasive alien species.

Information on the distribution of invasive species in Ireland, including Japanese Knotweed, is available on the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) invasive alien species website: www.invasives.ie. Incidences of invasive species can be reported via the NBDC website and we encourage members of the public to use this facility. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Japanese knotweed available from: www.biodiversityireland.ie/japanese-knotweed-faq/

Information on general management approaches to invasive plant species is available from the Invasive Species Ireland website: <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/toolkit/invasive-plant-management/>

Please note also, a licence is required to remove and dispose of Japanese Knotweed under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and contractors employed to carry out this work should be aware of this requirement. If you have any queries in relation to the transport of Japanese Knotweed please contact the Licencing Unit of NPWS at email: wildlifelicence@housing.gov.ie