



# Chinese Knotweed

**THE THREAT:** Chinese knotweed can seriously affect our native plants and forests by killing plants through smothering them.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT THIS PEST?

Chinese knotweed (*Persicaria chinensis*) is a rapidly growing perennial bushy vine that can smother other plants, including trees. It could impact forestry, orchards and nurseries and become a problem in your home garden.

It can regenerate quickly from small plant fragments and can spread via contaminated gardening tools and machinery such as lawnmowers.

This pest may be shared by people among the community who grow the plant for traditional medicinal purposes and are not aware of the problems associated with Chinese knotweed. However, imported traditional Chinese medicinal products with Chinese knotweed can be purchased legally from stores without endangering our environment.

## WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Chinese knotweed currently has a limited distribution in Auckland and Waikato only, but there is potential for the pest plant to establish throughout New Zealand as it can tolerate a variety of conditions.

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

This bushy herbaceous vine can grow up to 1 metre tall if it is not climbing over other plants or structures. Stems are reddish/pinkish in colour and leaves have a conspicuous V-shaped blotch. Flowers clusters are cream/pink coloured.

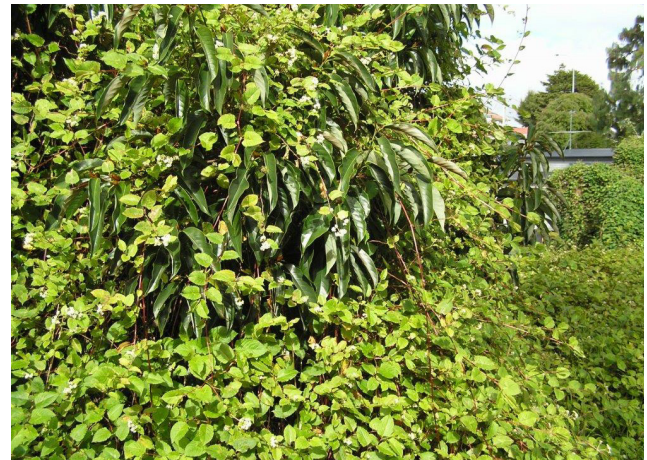
## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFO?

Check out the MPI webpage for Chinese knotweed: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/chinese-knotweed> or talk to Auckland Council Biosecurity on (09) 301 0101 for advice.

## HOW TO HELP IF YOU FIND THIS PLANT:

**Contact MPI's free 24-hour pest and disease hotline 0800 80 99 66**

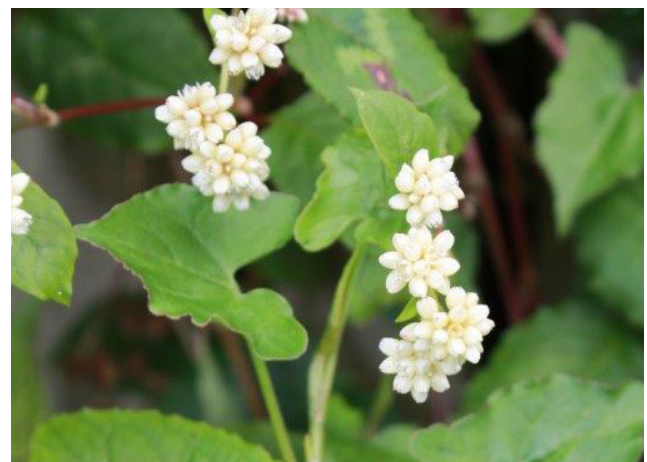
**Please do not attempt to control this pest plant yourself.**



Chinese knotweed infestation.



Distinct V-shaped blotches on leaves.



Stems are reddish/pink and flowers cream/pink.