

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Himalayan knotweed
Polygonum polystachyum

Other common names: Cultivated knotweed,
Kashmir plume, bell-shaped knotweed

USDA symbol: POPO5
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Himalayan knotweed is the lower-growing cousin of the other perennial knotweed species in the northwest. The first record of the plant is Polk County in 1934. It was introduced from Asia to be planted as an ornamental. Though it can be found in most coastal counties, its abundance is much less than Japanese knotweed.

Distribution in Oregon: The largest populations are found on the north coast near Seaside and on the lower Alsea River near Waldport.

Description: Himalayan knotweed is a perennial polygonum growing up to 6 feet tall and is related to giant and Japanese knotweeds. Its leaves are alternate, long and narrow (4 to 8 inches), and tapered compared to Japanese and giant knotweeds that are ovate and heart shaped, respectively. It has branching inflorescences in an array of lacy clusters of many white small fragrant flowers. Stems are numerous, glabrous, ribbed, reddish-brown and erect. It blooms from late July to October.

Impacts: Himalayan knotweed is the least common of the three weedy knotweed species in the Pacific Northwest. Plants grow vigorously creating dense colonies that exclude native vegetation, though they seem less adaptable to dense shade. Established populations are persistent and difficult to eradicate due to their proximity to streams. It poses a moderate threat to riparian areas, where it disperses in flood events, rapidly colonizing scoured shores and islands. Himalayan knotweed competes with riparian trees and may reduce forest canopies in the long-term along rivers and streams by preventing regeneration. Dense mats of fallen leaves may prevent germination of other important species.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available at this time.

