



## Yachats Weed of the Month – October 2023

### Knotweed (various *Fallopia* species)

The knotweed species found in our area are Himalayan knotweed, Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed. Japanese knotweed can also form viable hybrids with the other species.

**Impact:** Knotweeds form dense clumps that completely crowd out all other vegetation. Take a look at the stand of Himalayan knotweed on the east side of Highway 101 opposite Aqua Vista loop, also Japanese knotweed at the SW corner of the Fire Station property. There are many smaller knotweed populations around Yachats. Native vegetation stands no chance against untreated knotweed, and wildlife is correspondingly impacted. Himalayan knotweed may be mildly toxic to livestock.

**Identification:** Knotweed is recognizable by its bamboo-like stems, the attractive small white flowers appearing from August onward, and the uniform appearance of established colonies. The individual knotweed species can be identified by their characteristic leaf shapes.

**Management:** Knotweed is probably more difficult to eradicate than any of our other major invasive weeds. Manual removal or brush cutting tends to make the knotweed multiply and spread. Short of large-scale soil excavation to a depth of 3 ft (which has been done in the UK), the only practical way of treating large knotweed populations is to use herbicides. Efforts by the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District to deal with knotweed in Yachats have been thwarted. In the meantime, several large knotweed stands in our city are spreading out of control – they are far too big to be handled by the Trails Crew. Small populations may be controlled by repeatedly digging out the plants with their rhizomes as they appear throughout the growing season, but this remedy requires extreme vigilance otherwise the plant comes back with a vengeance.

The Weed of the Month is brought to you by the Yachats Trails Crew. Visit our website [www.yachatstrails.org](http://www.yachatstrails.org)



Nothing but knotweed!



Himalayan (left) and Japanese knotweed