

# The Garden Invader That Could Sink Your Mortgage

The Environment Agency call Japanese knotweed, "indisputably the UK's most aggressive and destructive plant" and Swansea has been called **'the knotweed capital of the world'**. This garden invader can wreck foundations, drainage, paving and walls, and even affect mortgages.



**L**loyd Fyfield of Environet UK is an expert on the plant, which came to South Wales in the mid-19th century.

"Loved by the celebrity gardeners of the day, it was planted in the grand gardens in South Wales," Lloyd says. "They admired its fast growth, its attractive bamboo-like stems with purple freckles, its large spade-shaped leaves and its mass of pretty, creamy white flowers in the summer.

"Unfortunately they were not to know the havoc it would wreak in years to come, growing out of control and pushing out our native species. Not to mention the damage to property and distress to home sellers, house buyers and property developers."

So seriously do the authorities treat this fast-growing plant that it is covered by several laws. It's not

illegal to have Japanese knotweed on your property but you must keep it under control and ensure it doesn't spread to neighbouring gardens or into the wild. Local Authorities have powers to force landowners to clear land infested with knotweed. Even the soil it has grown in is classified as a controlled waste.

DIY attempts at getting rid of it are rarely, if ever, successful and can make the problem worse.

Lloyd's company Environet are the longest-established experts in the field. They've been tackling Japanese knotweed for nearly 20 years. They use patented equipment that will remove Japanese knotweed permanently from your property and have insurance backed guarantees to back up this promise. If you think you have Japanese knotweed on your property, the first thing to do is to have it correctly

identified. Email your photos to Environet for a free assessment or take a look at the identification video on their website.

Once Japanese knotweed is identified, action should be taken quickly – this plant can grow at a rate of a 10cm a day and will grow under concrete and tarmac with no problem.

Environet can completely eradicate your Japanese knotweed in just a few days and their 10-year guarantee is backed by Lloyd's of London, which is accepted by most mortgage lenders for lending purposes. With swift action you can eradicate this deadly invader for good.

■ To contact Environet call **01792 828 133** or visit **[www.environetuk.com](http://www.environetuk.com)**