



Alternating heart-shaped leaves with sprays of minute flowers arising in the angle between the leaf and the stout stem.

Overview of Proposed Biological Control Program
The scientific literature shows a considerable range of natural enemies inflicting damage, in some cases severe, to Asian populations.

A classical biological control project is being planned by the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, Cornell University, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International-Bioscience (CABI-Bioscience), Welsh Development Agency, the United Kingdom Environment Agency and various other European and US agencies. This collaboration will allow Japanese knotweed to be controlled in North America and the United Kingdom at a much lower cost.

This project will be the first biological control project against a weed target in the United Kingdom.

In 2000, the first year of a multi-year project focused on: (1) the establishment of sites to evaluate ecological impacts and to survey for native natural enemies of the weed in New York; (2) the development of better contacts with potential partners in various regions; and (3) the initiation of overseas investigations. Preliminary survey results were promising with four species of fungi and over ten species of arthropods (insects and mites) recorded in Japan.

The second year (2001) focused on surveys for natural enemies in Japan, prerelease field assessments, identification of native plants for host specificity tests, and development of a standardized monitoring protocol. Cooperative agreements between the Forest Service – FHTET and Cornell University - Biological Control of Non-Indigenous Plant Species Program, and between the Forest Service – FHTET and CABI – Bioscience were completed. The third (2002) and fourth (2003) years will focus on overseas exploration, host range testing, ecological impacts, and establishing laboratory colonies of candidate natural enemies in the United States and the United Kingdom.



Dense patch of Japanese Knotweed

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