

Invasive Knotweeds

Bohemian Knotweed

Polygonum x bohemicum (Fallopia x bohemica)

Japanese Knotweed

Polygonum cuspidatum (Fallopia japonica)

Giant Knotweed

Polygonum sachalinense (Fallopia sachalinense)

Himalayan Knotweed

Polygonum polystachyum (Persicaria wallichii)

Polygonaceae – Knotweed/Buckwheat Family

**Class B Noxious Weeds
Control Recommended
(required in selected areas)**

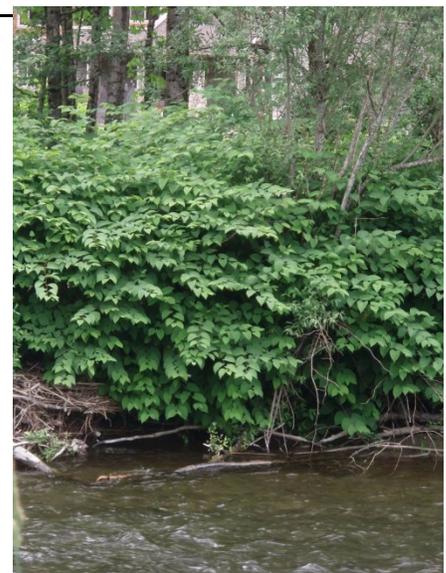
Legal Status in King County: The species of knotweed listed above are classified as Class B noxious weeds (non-native species that can be designated for control based on local priorities) according to Washington State Noxious Weed Law, RCW 17.10. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has not designated these species for required control in King County. The King County Noxious Weed Control Board recommends control of these species wherever feasible, and requires control in selected areas (see current King County Noxious Weed List for details). State quarantine laws prohibit transporting, buying, selling or offering these species for sale or distributing plants, plant parts or seeds.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Impacts and History

- Displaces native vegetation due to its fast-growing, dense, aggressive growth.
- Creates bank erosion problems and is considered a potential flood hazard. Despite knotweed's large rhizome mass, it provides poor erosion control.
- Lowers quality of riparian habitat for fish and wildlife. Changes nutrient cycling of rivers and lowers water quality.
- Thickets can completely clog small waterways.
- Forms dense stands that crowd out all other vegetation, degrading native plant and animal



habitat.

- Damages pavement, limits sight visibility along roads, and obscures guard rails and road signs.
- Roots interfere with drainage and septic systems.
- Invades turf and landscaped areas.
- Difficult to control because of extremely vigorous rhizomes and roots that form a deep, dense mat.
- Plants can re-sprout from very small root and rhizome fragments.
- Plant stems and rhizomes that fall into the water can create new infestations downstream.
- Japanese and giant knotweed are native to northeastern Asia. They hybridize to produce Bohemian knotweed. Himalayan knotweed is native to south and central Asia, including the Himalayas.
- All species were introduced into the U.S. and Canada starting in the late 1800s as ornamental plants and for erosion control and have since spread widely.



Description

- Large, clump-forming, herbaceous perennial with 4 to 12 feet tall, round canes with thin, papery sheaths and creeping roots. The hollow stems are jointed and swollen at the nodes, giving a bamboo-like appearance.
- Japanese, giant, Bohemian and Himalayan knotweed are members of the buckwheat family (Polygonaceae).
- Rhizomes can spread at least 23 feet (7 meters) from the parent plant and can penetrate more than 7 feet (2 meters) into the soil.
- Forms large, dense clones of either male or female plants.
- Stems are thick and hollow, resembling bamboo, green to reddish in color, often red-speckled. Young shoots look similar to red asparagus.
- Leaves are alternate, bright green with smooth edges. Leaf shape varies. : Himalayan knotweed leaves are like an elongated triangle, Japanese knotweed leaves are rounded with a flat base and short pointed tip Bohemian knotweed leaves vary from a heart-shaped base to a flat base and variable leaf tip shape, and giant knotweed leaves are huge, “elephant ear” type leaves with a distinctly heart-shaped base and elongated pointed tip. Leaf size also varies, however Japanese knotweed leaves are generally 4 to 6 inches long by 3 to 4 inches wide, hybrid Bohemian knotweed leaves are 7 to 9 inches long, and giant knotweed leaves often exceed 12 inches across, twice the size of Japanese knotweed leaves.
- Flowers are small, white/green on Japanese, Bohemian and giant knotweed and light pinkish-white on Himalayan knotweed and grow in showy plume-like branched clusters. Flowers form in July and August and grow in dense clusters

from the leaf joints. Flowers are either all female (form seeds) or all male (don't form seeds) on each plant.

- Flowers in late July, typically start to form seeds by mid-August.

Habitat

- Can grow in partial shade or full sun.
- Knotweed thrives in any moist soil or river cobble, but can also grow in dry areas.
- Most commonly found in the flood zone along rivers and creeks, it also grows in roadside ditches, railroad rights-of-way, unmanaged lands, wetlands, neglected gardens, and other moist areas.

Reproduction and Spread

- Knotweed typically starts growth in April, but can begin as late as June in higher elevations.
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively from rhizomes and roots. Knotweed can spread rapidly due to its ability to reproduce vegetatively.
- Invasive knotweeds spread mainly by rhizomes. Rhizome and root fragments are dispersed by natural causes (flood, erosion) or man-made dispersal (roadside clearing, fill dirt).
- Root fragments, as small as ½ in (1 cm) can form new plant colonies and can also be spread in contaminated fill material.
- Cut or broken stems will sprout if left on moist soil or put directly into water, or if moved by beavers or earth-moving equipment. Each node on the plant stalk is able to produce roots and new plants.
- Seeds can be viable for as long as 15 years. Seeds in the upper 1 inch (2 cm) of soil generally are viable for 4 to 5 years. Below 1 inch (2 cm), the seeds remain dormant longer. However, knotweed seedlings are not often found in the wild and most dispersal is by root and stem fragments.
- Knotweed canes die back with the first hard frost (Pridham and Bing 1975) and go dormant during the winter. The dead, brown stems may remain standing through the winter with new canes developing in the spring from the same rootstock.

Local Distribution

Found throughout King County. The heaviest concentrations of invasive knotweeds are found along riparian corridors and road rights-of-way. Infestations can also be found in residential gardens, wetlands, and upland areas.

CONTROL INFORMATION

Integrated Pest Management

The preferred approach for weed control is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM involves selecting from a range of possible control methods to match the management requirements of each specific site. The goal is to maximize effective control and to minimize negative environmental, economic and social impacts.

Use a multifaceted and adaptive approach. Select control methods that reflect the available time, funding, and labor of the participants, the land use goals, and the values of the community and landowners. Management will require dedication over a number of years, and should allow for flexibility in method as appropriate.

Planning Considerations

The key to controlling knotweed is controlling the rhizomes. What you see on the surface is only a fraction of the problem. “Control measures that fail to address the regenerative capacity of the rhizomes will not control this plant.” (Gover et al 2005). Although there are potentially successful mechanical or manual control options for small patches, landscape level projects and large sites will likely require integrating herbicide into the control strategy.

Begin by surveying area for knotweed, setting priorities and selecting the best control method(s) for the site conditions and regulatory compliance issues (**refer to the King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines**).

It is possible but not easy to control knotweed, and it is especially difficult on a landscape scale, such as along a river, or when spread over many properties. Because of knotweed’s incredibly extensive root system and sprouting ability, landscape level control requires long-term planning and follow-up. Even on a patch-by-patch basis, successful eradication is likely to take several years and multiple treatments.

On rivers and streams, knotweed spreads easily downstream by water, so it is necessary to begin control from the furthest upstream infestation, including all tributaries and other upstream sources of possible re-infestation.

For large, landscape scale projects, outreach to all public and private landowners and the broader community, as well as volunteer recruitment and coordination, will improve the success of the project. Work with volunteers and other organizations in the community to expand the ability to physically get the work done. Landscape

level projects may have a greater chance of success under a coordinated effort such as a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). Grants are available for invasive vegetation removal, such as knotweed, that benefits public resources, especially for work done through non-profit organizations or government agencies.

Below, each method is first described individually, and then Best Management Method recommendations are provided for different types of infestations.

Early Detection and Prevention

- Monitor for new populations in May and June.
- Dig up isolated or small populations (50 stems or less). If there are more stems than you can remove manually, it may be necessary to treat the area with an appropriate herbicide in the late summer/early fall.
- Prevent plants from spreading away from existing populations by washing vehicles, machinery, and equipment that have been in infested areas.
- Prevent knotweed from entering waterways.
- Do not discard stems or root fragments in waterways or on moist soil.

Manual or Mechanical Control

- **When to use manual methods:** If there is easy access to the site and patches are reasonably small (50 stems or less), commit to following an intensive control regimen.
- **Variations:** Cutting, mowing, pulling, digging, covering.
- Cutting, mowing and pulling stimulates shoot growth and depletes the roots. The more shoots there are per linear foot of root, the more likely it will be to physically pull out the roots, exhaust them by depriving them of energy (i.e. by cutting the shoot off) or eradicating them with an herbicide treatment.
- When controlling knotweed manually, be sure to practice the four T's: timely, tenacious, tough and thorough (Soll 2004).
- Hand pulling and the use of hand mechanical tools to control noxious weeds are generally allowable in critical areas in unincorporated King County (refer to the **King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines** for details).
- Be aware that repeated cutting tends to produce numerous small stems that may make future treatment with stem injection more difficult.
- **CUT** stems close to the ground **TWICE A MONTH OR MORE** between at least April and August, and then once a month or more until the first frost, over 3 to 5 consecutive years (Soll 2004). This can vary depending on the growth of the plant. The important thing is to keep the plant from storing any new root energy.
 - Keep plants from growing taller than 6 inches.

- Using a machete, loppers or pruning shears, cut the stems to the ground surface. If using a mower/weed-eater is necessary, cut as low and as often as possible. Be sure not to scatter stems or root fragments.
- Rake and pile up the cut stems where they will dry out. Dried stems can be crushed and composted on site or discarded in yard waste.
- Stems or stem fragments left on moist soil or in water may sprout at the nodes, and the area (or adjacent areas) may become re-infested.
- Large piles of composting knotweed stems have been known to self-ignite, so take care not to create large piles and monitor regularly.
- Goats and chickens are reported to eat knotweed and in some circumstances, controlled grazing may be an option similar to intensive mowing. Be aware that goats will eat desirable vegetation as well as knotweed. Grazing should reduce the growth of knotweed, but is unlikely to completely kill the plants. For best results, maintain intense grazing pressure for at least 5 years over the entire knotweed patch or until plants stop growing back.
- Never allow cut, mowed or pulled knotweed vegetation to enter waterways.
- **DIG** up as much root as possible in August over at least three consecutive years; reported to work for small, isolated patches.
 - Roots of established plants may extend down 7 to 10 feet deep, and rhizomes are often very large and woody and difficult to dig up.
 - Be sure to carefully dispose of the roots in garbage. Do not put them in a compost pile because they remain viable for a very long time. Roots and rhizomes dry out very slowly, so burning isn't usually a feasible disposal option for rhizomes.
 - Each time you see new sprouts (start looking a week after you pull), uproot them as well, trying to pull out as much of the root as you can each time.
 - Be sure to search at least 20 feet away from the original patch center for new sprouts.
- **COVER** with heavy duty geo-textile fabric or black plastic.
 - Works better with isolated and smaller patches on open, undisturbed terrain.
 - Plan to leave the covering material in place throughout at least five growing seasons, longer if the soil is wet or the population large and well-established.
 - First, cut stems down to ground surface. Next, cover the area with geo-textile fabric or heavy duty black plastic extending beyond the plant base and stems at least 7 feet beyond the outside stems. Leave covering material loose and clean of debris, weighted down with heavy rocks or cement blocks. Watch for holes in the fabric and at the perimeters for any new growth. Every two to four weeks during the growing season, stomp down re-growth under covering material and clean debris.

- Install covering at the beginning of the year or after cutting the plant down several times during the growing season which will reduce some of the rapid plant growth.

Chemical Control

- Herbicides should only be applied at the rates and for the site conditions and/or land usage specified on the herbicide label. **Follow all label directions.**
- For your personal safety, at a minimum, wear gloves, long sleeves and pants, closed toe shoes, and appropriate eye protection. Follow label directions for any additional personal protection equipment needed.
- For herbicide use in critical areas and their buffers, certain restrictions apply depending on the site and jurisdiction. In unincorporated King County, refer to the **King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines** for a summary of current restrictions and regulatory compliance issues. Elsewhere, check with the local jurisdiction.
- Herbicides with the active ingredients glyphosate (e.g. Rodeo, Roundup, Aqua Neat among others), imazapyr (e.g. Habitat, Polaris, Arsenal), triclopyr (e.g. Garlon, Renovate, Element) and aminopyralid (e.g. Milestone) have shown to be variably effective in controlling or suppressing knotweed either separately or in combination. Results vary depending on the timing, rate and method of application. See below for detailed information.
- Aquatic herbicides are Restricted Use Pesticides in Washington and can only be purchased and used for aquatic applications by WSDA licensed pesticide applicators with an aquatic endorsement on their license. Also, state and sometimes local permits are generally required when applying pesticides in water or where herbicides are likely to drift into water.
- Aquatic herbicides that are also labeled for use in terrestrial areas, such as Roundup Custom, can be purchased and used by non-licensed individuals for treating knotweed, as long as the plants being treated are not growing in water and the herbicide is not likely to drift into water, such as with the stem injection method.

Types of Chemical Control Methods

Foliar Application

- Use a backpack sprayer or large volume sprayer.
- Easiest and fastest method, but potentially higher risk of drift onto desirable vegetation and into water and soil.
- Use a systemic herbicide that translocates from leaves to the roots.
- The most effective chemical on knotweed is imazapyr and the second most effective is glyphosate. These products can also be combined to produce

- quicker visual signs of treatment, but does not increase the effectiveness of using imazapyr alone.
- The most effective time to spray knotweed with glyphosate or imazapyr is generally July to October, or between bud formation and when the plant dies back after the first frost, with later treatments in that time period generally being more effective than earlier. Early treatments may require a follow-up spray to control re-growth. This will vary with weather and water availability. Usually the most effective time for a single treatment is late August/early September.
 - Non-selective herbicides such as glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) and imazapyr (e.g. Habitat, Polaris) kill both grass and broadleaf plants. Selective broadleaf herbicides will not harm most grasses if used according to label. However, there are currently no selective broadleaf herbicides that provide more than one season of knotweed control. Triclopyr and aminopyralid will provide short-term control of knotweed, but generally won't kill the plants. Metsulfuron and dicamba will also control top growth of knotweed although generally don't control the rhizomes. 2,4-D is not effective on knotweed.
 - Where it is not possible to spray over the top of the plants due to height and access, spray the stems and the undersides of the leaves and get as much coverage of the plants as possible.
 - Avoid spraying knotweed when bees and other pollinators are present on the flowers whenever feasible. When pollinators are present, consider spraying either before full-bloom or after petals begin to drop. You can also spray earlier or later in the day when bees are not as active. If necessary to spray when plants are in full flower, spray the stems and undersides of the leaves and avoid spraying the flowers as much as possible. You may also consider clipping and removing the flowers prior to foliar spray, or using a stem injection method. Alternately, beekeepers can be notified and asked to move bees away from areas being treated if there are concerns about exposure.
 - If plants are cut back, allow them to re-grow for at least six weeks, or to about 3 to 6 feet tall, before spraying. If plants are bent over to make them shorter and easier to spray, allow them to recover for one to two weeks before spraying to make sure they are actively growing again. Typically, spraying re-growing or bent knotweed is not as effective as spraying full grown plants, but it is sometimes more efficient and necessary because of land use or visibility issues.
 - If it is necessary to keep plants from growing tall for visibility or other reasons, a spring herbicide application or cutting will set back the plant so that it can be sprayed at an effective height and growth stage later in the year.
 - Experience in Pennsylvania suggests June 1 as a good cutting date if follow up spraying is planned. They found that regrowth when cut June 1 is

vigorous, but limited in height (6 to 10 ft tall knotweed cut in June resulted in 2 to 4 foot tall re-growth). Cutting too early in the season can result in regrowth that reaches full height and waiting too late in the season can result in almost no regrowth and will limit the ability to spray and control next season's growth (Gover et al 2005).

- Continue to monitor and treat annually in the late summer as long as there is re-growth. Re-growth the following years will be much shorter and sparser, and can be sprayed with considerably less herbicide, although it will take more time to locate all the plants. Re-growing plants can also be dug up once they are very small, although it is still difficult to remove all the roots.
- Regardless of herbicide choice, rate or spray timing, large, established patches (hundreds or thousands of stems) will almost certainly require foliar treatments over at least three years, possibly many more. Similar to treating patches mechanically, be sure to search for new shoots up to 20 feet or more away from the central patch after herbicide treatment begins.

Specific Herbicide Information

Glyphosate: 2% to 5% solution plus surfactant (as recommended on label).

- Apply as coarse spray with complete, uniform coverage.
- Apply when knotweed is actively growing and most have reached the bud to early flowering stage until the first hard frost.
- Roundup Custom/AquaneatRodeo plus surfactant (e.g. Competitor, Agridex) are approved for aquatic sites.
- Roundup ProMax or other products containing glyphosate can be used on terrestrial sites. Add surfactant if advised on label. The concentration of active ingredients can vary by product so make sure to use the rate recommended on the label. The percent rate given here is based on a product such as Roundup ProMax that has 48% active ingredient.

Imazapyr : slow-acting and expensive but highly effective on knotweed.

- 1% solution with 0.25% to 1% surfactant or 0.5 to 1 lb per acre.
- Apply from midsummer after seed set until first killing frost.
- Habitat and Polaris are approved for aquatic sites.
- Arsenal and other imazapyr products are approved for various non-aquatic sites (see label for crop rotation and other restrictions).
- Imazapyr has some soil activity and may impact roots of other plants in the area being sprayed for several months after application. Follow label instructions before planting into treated area and use caution around tree roots and on permeable soils.

Wick Wipe

- Use an applicator wand with a sponge on the end of a reservoir for the herbicide. Wipe the sponge soaked with herbicide on the leaves and stem of the plants.
- Use glyphosate at 33 to 75 % concentration (or as directed on product label).
- Greatly reduces drift.
- Hard to get chemical on leaf surface and seems to increase personal contact with herbicide.
- May be appropriate for small re-growing plants growing near desirable vegetation.

Cut and Pour

- Not very effective and generally not recommended.
- Cut stems between lowest 2 nodes and put 3 ml undiluted (concentrated) glyphosate into stem cavity (can use a large needle with measured reservoir to be precise). Be very careful not to splash herbicide onto the ground.
- Timing best in late summer or early fall.
- Follow label directions on amount applied per acre (i.e. for the 7.5 quart per acre label rate, can only treat 2375 stems per acre at 3 ml per stem).
- Need to remove cut stems away from water where they can dry out and not spread off site.

Hollow Stem-Injection

- Timing is best from late July to end of September (or whenever the stems dry out and start splitting when injected).
- Use a stem injection gun or similar tool that can be calibrated to the required amount.
- Follow directions carefully especially on calibrating and cleaning the equipment.
- Highly effective; usually 95% or more controlled in first year.
- Greatly reduces drift, is highly selective and there are no cut stems to deal with.
- Need to inject every cane in the stand; very time and labor intensive compared with foliar spraying.
- Can only inject stems over ½ inch in diameter so there will always be small stems that can't be injected in a population, especially in the second year of treatment.
- Glyphosate is the only product labeled for hollow stem injection. Aquatic formulations of glyphosate such as Roundup Custom (formerly sold as Aquamaster), Rodeo, or Aqua Neat can be used on or near aquatic sites while Roundup ProMax and other non-aquatic formulations, can be used on non-aquatic sites.

- Inject the concentrated herbicide product into each stem between first and second nodes from the ground, or between second and third node if cane is too woody lower down.
- Most labels recommend 5 ml per cane for knotweed, but our experience and WSU Extension trials have shown that 3ml is just as effective as 5 ml, so we recommend using 3 ml.
- Mark stems immediately after injecting with spray paint or a grease pen to avoid missing stems or doubling up (once stems are injected they won't hold another dose and herbicide will spill out of the stem).
- Make sure to stay within the per acre label rate for the glyphosate product you are using. For example, with a label maximum of 7.5 quarts per acre, at 3ml per cane, you can only inject approximately 2,375 canes per acre.
- For two to three years following stem injection, plan on either spot-spraying or digging up any re-growing plants. Plants will be smaller and sparser, but follow up is essential to long term control.

Combination of Methods

- Using a combination of methods may work better for some site conditions, labor availability or land use needs. However, none of these methods are as effective as spraying full grown knotweed in late summer or using hollow stem injection.
- **Cut/Spray:** Cutting stems, followed by foliar spray 6 weeks later, instead of spraying twice, will reduce overall herbicide input into the watershed and is probably more labor efficient (can use volunteers or unlicensed crews to cut the infestation).
- **Bend/Spray:** Bend stems and then approximately 2 to 4 weeks later, spray plants. Volunteers or unlicensed crews can be used to bend the stems prior to foliar application.
- **Cut/Cover:** This method is moderately effective. Needs constant monitoring and controlling of plants around perimeter and scattered plants that grow through sheet mulch through holes/overlap areas. Every two to four weeks need to stomp down re-growth under covering material and clean off debris.
- **Spray/Spray:** Spring or summer spray followed by fall foliar spray; sets plants back so they can be sprayed at the appropriate growth stage and at the best (easiest) height. This method increases the amount of overall herbicide input into the watershed but takes the least time of the combination methods.

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product.

Chemical control options may differ for private, commercial and government

agency users. **For questions about herbicide use, contact the King County Noxious Weed Control Program or your local Weed Board or Extension Agent.**

Biological Control

- Biological control is the deliberate introduction of insects, mammals or other organisms which adversely affect the target weed species. Biological control is generally most effective when used in conjunction with other control techniques.
- There are currently no biological control agents approved for managing invasive knotweed in the United States, but it is likely that agents will be approved in the near future. In Washington, contact the WSU Integrated Weed Control Project at <http://invasives.wsu.edu/aboutus.htm> for current information.

SUMMARY OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Small Infestations in Native and/or Desirable Vegetation

- Dig up plants or apply appropriate herbicide with wick wiper or by spot spray to minimize off target injury (follow directions above for the method used).
- Monitor site throughout growing season and remove any new plants. Remember to search at least 20 feet from the original infestation.
- If using an herbicide in a grassy area, consider using a selective herbicide to avoid injury to the grass or a wick wiper or stem injector.
- Re-vegetate bare areas with appropriate vegetation or cover with mulch while desirable vegetation becomes established. Do not leave large areas of bare soil.

Large Infestations/Monocultures

- Mowing is not effective for controlling invasive knotweed infestations and can spread infestations further.
- Large infestations can be controlled with herbicides or a combination of methods (follow directions in the appropriate sections above).
- Eradication of knotweed with a single herbicide application is difficult. Typically it takes several treatments, over 4 to 6 years to get an infestation under control.
- If using the covering method, be sure to monitor for knotweed growth on the edges of sheet-mulched sites, at overlapped areas in the sheet-mulch, and where sheet-mulch has been staked. For sprayed sites, monitor annually around the edges of chemically treated areas.
- Use erosion control measures in areas subject to erosion, especially on steep slopes or riverbanks.
- Plan on re-vegetating with desirable vegetation after the initial 2-3 years of treatment, especially in areas likely to be re-infested with knotweed or other

invasive vegetation. Mulch bare areas until vegetation is re-established where feasible.

- Consider replanting with vegetation that is beneficial to bees and other pollinators when clearing large areas of knotweed. Use native or non-invasive plants only.

Control in Riparian Areas

- Additional permits may be required for control of infestations in riparian areas. See the **King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines** for more information or contact your local jurisdiction.
- Whenever large areas of vegetation are removed, the cleared area needs to be replanted with native or non-invasive vegetation and stabilized against erosion. Refer to the King County Surface Water Design Manual for further information about sediment and erosion control practices (call 206-477-4800 or go to <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/documents/surface-water-design-manual.aspx> for information).
- Survey area and document extent of infestation from the headwaters of waterways down.
- Consider manual removal or stem-injection for small (less than 50 stems) infestations if feasible.
- Target the knotweed, retaining and protecting native and beneficial plants.
- Use aquatic formulations where there is any risk of herbicide entering the water.
- Infested areas should incorporate a management plan lasting at least several years to control plants re-sprouting from the rhizome mass, skipped plants and any regrowth.

Control on Road Rights-of-Way

- Mowing is not an effective means of control and can spread knotweed infestations along road rights-of-way.
- Small plants should be dug up or spot sprayed with an appropriate herbicide. Large patches can be sprayed in late summer/early fall or controlled with a combination of cutting and spraying (see instructions above).
- Where necessary for visibility or other issues, plants can be cut down or sprayed in May or June and then sprayed again in late summer or early fall.

Knotweed Disposal Methods

- Knotweed crowns and rhizomes should be collected and discarded with the trash or taken to a transfer station for disposal. Composting crowns and rhizomes is not recommended.
- Knotweed stems can be composted, but they will root on moist soil so they need to be completely dried out and crushed before composting.

- Stems can be left on site to dry out and decompose if they are in a dry area where they will not move into waterways or onto moist soil. The area should be monitored for re-growth and stems should not be moved to an un-infested area.
- Large piles of composting knotweed stems have been known to self-ignite so monitor piles and avoid creating very large stacks. Knotweed stems burn when dry but the hollow compartments can burst and create small explosions when burned.
- Dried out stems may be broken up or chipped into pieces less than an inch long and then composted on site, disposed of in a city-provided yard waste container or in the green recycling at a transfer station.
- Stems of knotweed with seeds should be collected and put in the trash or taken to a transfer station. If removal is not feasible, these stems can be left on site. However, there is a risk of spread from the seeds, so the area should be monitored for several years for seedlings. Stems should be left well away from waterways, shorelines, roads and un-infested areas.
- Never dispose of knotweed plants or plant parts into waterways, wetlands, or other wet sites where they might take root or infest areas downstream.

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