

## WHAT IS KNOTWEED?

Knotweed is a tall, bamboo-like plant that is one of the worst invasive species and is on the top ten list for eradication in BC. There are currently four knotweed species in BC and one is in Kamloops - Japanese Knotweed.

## WHAT DOES JAPANESE KNOTWEED LOOK LIKE?

- grows up to 3 m tall and can grow in dense patches
- hollow stems with purple and red speckles
- heart-shaped leaves, 3-10 cm long
- clusters of small, greenish-white flowers in sprays along the stems
- roots extend 3 m deep and 14 m or more from the plant



## WHY IS KNOTWEED BAD?

**Invasive** - It can grow rapidly in any open habitat, out-competing native plants for light, moisture, and nutrients. There are no natural diseases or predators in our area to keep it in check.

**Erodes Soil** - Its extensive root system lacks true root hairs, which are necessary to bind and hold soil in place. Each winter, the stalks die, leaving bare, exposed soil that is vulnerable to further erosion. During peak stream flows, banks can erode, which results in sedimentation that impacts human water quality and fish populations. Flood events can break off knotweed's root material, carrying it along watercourses, where the material roots very easily. This perpetuates its growth cycle.

**Affects Fish Habitats** - Knotweed causes fundamental changes to the proper functioning of riparian systems.

### **Damages Property**

- There are significant costs associated with the removal/control of knotweed, which can negatively impact the value of any land where this weed lives.
- Underground stems (rhizomes) can push through pavement, building foundations, concrete retaining walls, and drains, which causes significant damage.
- Knotweed, through soil erosion, can over-widen stream channels and undercut roads and other structures.



# MY PROPERTY HAS KNOTWEED, WHAT DO I DO?

## Mechanical Control

- This type of control is only possible for very small infestations (<6 m<sup>2</sup>). Early treatment of a new site is vital, as knotweed can quickly invade large areas, which makes it more difficult to control later.
- Cutting must be conducted 2x per month, from April to first frost.
- Do not dig up knotweed roots. Leave the roots on site, and keep treating the stems mechanically.
- Mechanical treatment will take at least five years.
- Monitor weed removal closely to ensure plant and root fragments do not develop into new infestations.
- Carefully double-bag all plant parts in clear bags and take them to the landfill.\*

## Chemical Control

- Infestations should be treated 2x per growing season. The first application should be in April/May before the weed flowers. The second application should be done before the first frost.
- Ensure good coverage of the chemical by treating the top and bottom of every leaf.
- Always follow the label instructions or hire a certified pesticide applicator.

## Report Knotweed

- If you spot Japanese Knotweed, report the location right away at [www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca)

## Find Out More

- Invasive Species Council of BC [www.bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/knotweed](http://www.bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/knotweed)
- Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver [www.knotonmyproperty.com](http://www.knotonmyproperty.com)

## DON'T

- **Don't trade or share the plant** with friends or neighbours.
- **Don't weed-eat or mow knotweed** - this will cause it to spread. If trying mechanical control, cut stems with sharp blades (e.g. use clippers, loppers, pruners, or secateurs).
- **Don't disturb or transport soil** that is contaminated with knotweed roots, which can radiate 14+ m out from the plant and 3 m deep. Broken root particles are highly regenerative, and even the smallest piece will readily grow into a new plant.
- **Don't compost or transport knotweed to a compost facility**
- **Don't chip knotweed material** - mechanical chippers don't kill knotweed. If you spread the chipped material on soil, knotweed could re-grow.
- **Don't dump garden waste** with knotweed contamination in the countryside.
- **Don't waste time** - your best chance to get rid of knotweed is when it first appears. Don't allow it to become established on your property.

## DISPOSAL

If you cut down knotweed, it is best to pile all cut vegetation onto a tarp that is placed on top of the infested area, and let the pieces completely die. Avoid placing the weed where it can touch soil. Once all cut pieces are dead, put them into clear garbage bags and dispose of them at the landfill.\*

If allowing it to completely die on site is not an option, put it directly into a clear garbage bag and dispose of it at the landfill.\*

\* **Note: there is no disposal charge for noxious weeds in clear bags.**

For more information, visit [www.kamloops.ca/ipm](http://www.kamloops.ca/ipm) and navigate to Noxious Weeds & Invasive Plants.