



Knotweeds*

Scientific Name:	<i>Polygonum x bohemicum</i>
Weed Class:	B
Requirement:	Control Required
Other Names:	N/A
Native To:	Japan, Asia
Toxicity:	Not known to be toxic

* Includes Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), giant knotweed (*P. sachalinense*), their hybrid (*Polygonum x bohemicum*), and also Himalayan knotweed (*P. polystachyum*).

Why is it a noxious weed?

Bohemian knotweed forms dense colonies that exclude native vegetation and greatly alter natural ecosystems. Established populations are persistent and colonies are extremely difficult to eradicate. Knotweeds are a significant threat to riparian areas.

How would I identify it?

General Description

Clumping and spreading perennial with large leaves, hollow stems and long creeping rhizomes.

Flower Description

Flower clusters located at stem and branch tips. Clusters (panicles) are 8 to 13 inches long. Sepals are white to pinkish-white in color.

Leaf Description

Leaves are alternate and oval. The leaf tip ranges from being blunt to a tapered point. The base is slightly indented to deeply heart-shaped. Leaf mid-veins have hairs. Leaf size for Bohemian knotweed is intermediate between Japanese and giant knotweed.

Stem Description

Main stems upright, often arched near top, simple to minimally branched, grooved, thick, hollow, weakly woody, swollen at nodes, usually reddish-brown at maturity.



Where does it grow?

An escaped ornamental, knotweed is often found in waste places, neglected gardens, roadsides, streambanks and riverbanks.

How does it reproduce?

Knotweed reproduces vegetatively from rhizomes and by seed. New plants can sprout from small fragments of root or a section of stem containing a node.

How do I control Knotweed?

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to research, plan for, and use a combination of prevention and control methods specific to the problem weed. This approach is called **I**ntegrated **W**eed **M**anagement (IWM), which uses mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control methods that effectively treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

IWM Control Method		Effectiveness of Control Method			Timing and Notes **
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Digging				P	Not recommended. An option only for a small knotweed clump that has not begun to spread out. <i>Rhizomes are extensive and difficult to remove. Any fragment missed will regrow. Herbicides are more effective.</i>
Mowing				P	Not recommended. In an upland setting, if the knotweed patch is small and on flat ground, it may be possible to slowly starve the rhizome if all stems are cut to the ground every two weeks from April through October for three straight years. <i>Mowing knotweed stimulates the rhizome to produce more stems than were present before. You must be persistent—you CAN NOT miss a cutting or you will end up with a worse problem than before. Most people can't or won't spend this much time on weed control.</i>
Tilling					Not recommended. Tilling knotweed will worsen the problem.
Black Plastic / Weed Fabric			F		Can be effective in an upland setting if the infestation is small. Cover the entire area before the stems begin to grow in the spring. At least twice each month, walk on the weed fabric, stomping down each stem with a heavy boot. The fabric must be thick in order to withstand the stomping. This routine must be followed for at least three years.
Cover Crop		-	-	-	Not effective
Managed Grazing		-	-	-	Not effective
Weed-Feeding Insects		-	-	-	None.
Herbicides - (Examples*)		<u><i>Knotweed rhizomes that have not been completely killed after the initial treatment may send up its first regrowth of new shoots three years later!</i></u>			
Aminopyralid	Milestone		F		Upland settings only; not approved for aquatic sites. Do not use aminopyralid under trees. Spray after flowering and before frost.
Glyphosate	Roundup, Aqua-Neat		F		Use as a foliar spray or stem injection. Not as potent as aminopyralid or imazapyr but is appropriate at more knotweed sites. Best in the fall.
Imazapyr	Arsenal		F		More effective than glyphosate. Potential for collateral damage. Do not use under trees or other valuable plants. Spray late summer, early fall.

*Brand names are listed as examples only. Other products may contain the listed chemical. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. Always read and follow the herbicide label.

****Timing of control is critical!** Herbicide treatments are often not effective or appropriate when plants are in flower. If the weeds have produced seed, bag the plants and place in garbage, not compost. Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year. For more information on IWM, specific herbicides, and timing of control, please contact the Weed Board at:



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