

WEED WATCH

Japanese Knotweed



Weed Watch is part of the district's effort to raise awareness about noxious weeds and their impact on natural resources and the local economy. For more information about knotweed and other invasive weeds visit www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds.

Description

Japanese knotweed is a dense growing shrub reaching up to 10 feet tall. The semi-woody stem is hollow with enlarged nodes. It is recognized by its dense growth form, often occurring in large monoculture thickets and by large, alternate, dark green leaves and panicles of minute white flowers. This invasive weed commonly disturbs areas with high light, such as road sides and stream banks. Reproduction occurs both by vegetative cuttings and seeds, making this plant extremely hard to eradicate. The dense patches shade and displace other plant life and reduce wildlife habitat. It is native to eastern Asia and was first introduced into America in the 19th Century.

Manual Controls

Control of knotweed relies on the death of the extensive rhizome system, which is an intensive project. Cut at least every 4-6 weeks through the summer until the plant loses its leaves in the fall. The multiple cuttings will reduce the plant's ability to send reserves to its roots for the winter months.

The plant will initially re-sprout quickly after the first cutting. However, continued frequent cutting of all stems at ground level for several years will weaken the rhizomes and eventually kill the plant. **Do not** throw the stems into a waterway or a compost pile.

Mechanical Controls

Mowing alone is not an effective control for Japanese knotweed. Cutting only removes the aboveground portion and serves to stimulate the belowground rhizome.

Cultural

You can prevent establishment of new plants by maintaining a strong, competitive vegetative cover and eliminating potential seed sources. Be careful when using machinery or hand tools to minimize soil disturbance to avoid 'planting' a new stand of knotweed.

Chemical

Identifying new small stands and treating it both manually and with chemicals, before it has a chance to dominate an area, is the best method of control.

There are recommended herbicide applications for managing Japanese knotweed infestations. Foliar treatments and use of injection tools are effective in combination when using systemic herbicides.

For specific recommendations visit "**Weed Watch**" at www.yamhillswcd.org.

When applying herbicides remember to follow label instructions. Use caution to avoid and prevent off-target drift and be aware of restrictions regarding livestock grazing. Find more information for herbicide products at <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>.

Contact Information

503-472-6403 or www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds

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