

Japanese Knotweed Facts

- Japanese knotweed is a semi-woody perennial with spreading rhizomes (underground stems) and numerous reddish-brown stems.
- Plants send up new red-splotched green shoots in April and grow quickly, reaching full size by July.
- The plant can reach four to eight feet in height and is often shrubby.
- The stems are hollow and jointed, resembling those of bamboo, especially in older plants, and are visible in winter as bare brown stalks with spent flower clusters.
- The petioled leaves are four to six inches long and somewhat heart shaped.
- The plant is deciduous, dropping its leaves in the fall.
- The flowers are small greenish or white and bloom in August and September.
- The female flowers may produce small 3-angled, shiny black-brown seeds.
- Rhizome fragments are capable of producing new plants.
- Knotweed thrives in any moist soil in full sun to part shade.
- Japanese knotweed is a native of Asia introduced to the United States in the 18th century as an ornamental.

For More Information

Herbicides Recommendations:

<http://uspest.org/pnw/weeds/>

Biocontrol:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/biocontrolprogram.shtml>

Weed Biology:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/coos/sites/default/files/Forage/knotweedmanageoregon.pdf>

ODA : Noxious Weed Control:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/index.shtml>



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Japanese Knotweed

Fallopia japonica



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Suggestions for Chemical Control

Always follow label instructions and take precautions to avoid drift when using chemical means of control.

- **IMPORTANT:** Don't spray in early summer. Spray from onset of flowering through September but before first frost!!
- Injection tools are effective and are most economical on larger diameter stems. This tool should be used in combination with foliar treatments to ensure treatment of all stems especially small understory stems.
- Do foliar application in mid-August through September w/ Glyphosate, Triclopyr or Imazapyr and Aminopyralid. This combination is the most effective product identified and offers a larger treatment window starting in mid summer.
- Coverage is critical. Take care not to spray foliage of non-target shrubs and trees.
- If knotweed is found near water, use herbicides approved for riparian use such as Aquamaster, Rodeo, Habitat, or Garlon 3A.

Suggestions for Mechanical Control

Once established, Japanese knotweed is extremely hard to eradicate. Control of knotweed relies on the death of the extensive rhizome system, which is an intensive project.

Manual Pulling/Cutting

- 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.
- 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.
- If the plants are small, remove all of the root and dispose of it in a way that will not allow re-sprout, drying and burning material.
- **Do not** throw the stems into a waterway or a compost pile. Check to see if the plant returns, as a small piece of root or rhizome can start new plants.



Biological Control

There are no approved biocontrol options for Japanese knotweed in the state of Oregon. There are preliminary trials occurring in Great Britain using a Japanese knotweed specific sap sucking insect, *Aphalara itadori*. There is also work looking at a leaf-spot fungus, *Mycosphaerella polygoni-cuspidati*, which attacks the plant from June to October

Suggestions for Integrated Pest Management Options

Identifying new small stands of Japanese knotweed and treating it both mechanically and



with chemical before it has a chance to dominate an area is the best method of control.

- According to the Knotweed Alliance, goats also find young shoots palatable and can be used for control to weaken stands
- To reduce overall herbicide use, cut patches in June, allow to regrow and spray in September.

For more recommendations on herbicide please visit: <http://uspest.org/pnw/weeds/>