

When Controlling Knotweed...



REMEMBER:

- ◆ A disposal plan for all knotweed material is essential to prevent future colonies. This might include burning the material, burying it more than 6 ft deep, or letting it dry out completely. **Please check state and local burn ordinances for your municipality before burning.**
- ◆ Re-vegetation after treatment is **necessary** as bare ground allows for reinvasion of knotweed. Rapid-growing, **native** trees and shrubs should be selected.
- ◆ If applying herbicide, wicking or injecting target plants with products containing glyphosphate is highly recommended as it prevents drift to non-targeted plants and eliminates the need for disposal. For best results, apply after cutting in August. For questions regarding application methods or permitting, please contact NYS Pesticide Control Specialist Ralph Scalzo at (518) 357-2352.
- ◆ Regardless of your method of attack, eradicating knotweed is typically a 4-5 year process. Be prepared to make several follow-up visits and don't lose faith—it can be done!

Where to Find Out More

Japanese Knotweed on the Web

<http://www.knottybits.com/Knotweed/>

<http://www.invasive.org>

<http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>

http://www.catskillstreams.org/stewardship_streamsides_is.html

NYS Open Burning Regulations

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html>

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Division of Air Resources: (518) 402-8403

To inquire about burn permits in Delaware County, please contact Joseph Bink at (607) 643-9404



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DELAWARE COUNTY SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Japanese Knotweed



Without prompt and vigorous action, Knotweed will overtake riverbanks, displace native habitat, and damage the scenic and recreational quality of our Catskill Streams

Why Worry About Knotweed?

In just the last ten to twenty years, Japanese Knotweed has entrenched itself along the banks of many Catskill streams. It grows extremely fast, often crowding out native vegetation and altering the landscape. It spreads mainly through seed dispersal and its extensive root system but new colonies can also sprout from plant fragments as small as 1/2 inch.



Dispersal of seeds and fragments can occur along streams, through untreated fill and soil movement, and on people, boats, and cars.

The Problems with Knotweed

- **The shallow root system characteristic of knotweed is ineffective at controlling streambank erosion**
- **Knotweed grows in dense stands which restrict access to local waterways**
- **Dead plant material may alter food webs and impact food supplies throughout the ecosystem**
- **Native plants are often outcompeted by rapidly expanding knotweed colonies**

Identifying Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) may also be referred to as 'bamboo' as its stems closely resemble those of bamboo. Leaves grow in an alternating pattern and average 6" in length and 3-4" in width; they are heart-shaped to somewhat triangular. The plants may grow 10 ft in height and sprout early, quickly dwarfing surrounding plants. Colonies are dense and thrive in areas open to light, including streambanks. In August, clusters of small, white flowers bloom, which turn to buckwheat-like seeds by early October. Upon cold weather growth ceases, leaves and seeds are shed, and the stems take on an auburn or rusty hue.



Early Knotweed sprouts during Spring

Upon cold weather growth ceases, leaves and seeds are shed, and the stems take on an auburn or rusty hue.



Knotweed during winter months



Summer flowers

What Can I Do?

Do's and Do Knots of Knotweed Management

- **Do** learn to identify Japanese Knotweed. Report infestations to local authorities.
- **Do Knot** throw knotweed cuttings into a stream where it can be carried to other locations.
- **Do** secure all cuttings off the ground. Allow to dry completely (keep off the ground while drying) and then burn with crowns in the center to ensure thorough combustion.
- **Do Knot** relocate soil or accept fill from contractors that may carry knotweed fragments.
- **Do** accept only knotweed-free fill.
- **Do Knot** transport knotweed fragments or seeds on clothing or equipment.
- **Do** carefully remove all knotweed fragments and seeds before moving to another location.
- **Do Knot** plant knotweed in new areas for landscaping or screening.
- **Do** plant native shrubs and trees where necessary or desired.



Erosion of streambank colonized by Japanese Knotweed