

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

(*Fallopia japonica*)

Best Management Practices



**LANARK
COUNTY**

EDD MapS Ontario
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



Report a sighting:

www.eddmaps.org/ontario/

For more information visit:

www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/best-management-practices

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**LANARK
COUNTY**

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Young, sprouting Japanese Knotweed (left)
and a mature, red-speckled stem (right).

- ▶ **Leaves:** alternate and are oval to triangular in shape.
- ▶ **Rhizomes:** a large underground root system capable of producing new plants.
- ▶ **Stems:** hollow, smooth, purple to green and growing up to 1" in diameter with reddish-brown nodes.
- ▶ **Flowers:** small and white-green, blooming in sprays.
- ▶ **Seeds:** very small, triangular, and winged.



*Japanese
Knotweed
flowers
blooming in
sprays.*

Japanese Knotweed is a highly invasive plant originating from eastern Asia. Regarded as one of the world's top 100 invasive species, Japanese knotweed forms dense thickets of bamboo-like vegetation. Its extensive rhizome (root) system is a major concern for infrastructure.



A dense thicket of Japanese Knotweed growing along a stream.

IMPACTS



Out-competes native plants, degrading the quality of wetland and riparian habitats



Causes significant infrastructure damage – can grow through 8cm thick concrete/asphalt. Major concern for new housing development in the UK, can impact mortgages



Interferes with access to water for recreational activities



Dig



Mow



Excavate



Tarp



Spray

For **very small** or **young** infestations, dig up plants and rhizomes. May be very labour intensive. The root system will quickly re-sprout when pulled or dug if the roots are not completely removed.

Continual mowing or cutting of the stems at least once a month throughout the growing season will eventually weaken the rhizomes. Must be repeated for a minimum of 5 years.

For large populations, using heavy machinery, a full-scale excavation of the soil up to 2m deep, then bury in a pit lined with root barriers. As a last resort, remove to designated soil treatment areas at a landfill.

Cover the ground loosely with a dark coloured tarp to smother new growth and “cook” the root system. Stems may break through the tarp if it is too tight. Leave tarp for at least one full growing season.

Only apply systemic herbicides to fully expanded leaves. Re-treating the seedling growth will be necessary for multiple years.



Japanese knotweed can grow through 8cm of concrete/asphalt (top) and impact foundations and walls (below).

DISPOSAL

Plants can be dried and composted. If plants have seeds, seal in a black garbage bag and leave in the sunlight for 1-3 weeks. Dispose of as household garbage.



Dried Japanese Knotweed stem (top). Most Japanese Knotweed in N. America is presumed to be a male-sterile clone which doesn't produce viable seeds (below) but is spread easily by rhizomes.