



Knotweeds: Steadily Choking Out Our Native Species

Knotweed is a perennial plant native to Asia that was originally introduced as an ornamental, and later, unsuitably as a bank stabilization plant. There are several species of knotweed, but four species in particular are of a major concern according to Nancy Ness, Coordinator for the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board.

TOP 4 NOXIOUS KNOTWEEDS:

1. Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum Cuspidatum*)
2. Giant Knotweed (*P. Sachalinense*)
3. Bohemian Knotweed (*P. Bohemicum*)
4. Himalayan Knotweed (*P. Polystachyum*)



Many have seen this plant along a road side or stream bank and thought it attractive. It is; however, the aggressive growth pattern of knotweeds in our watershed are edging out native plants, and putting salmonids and other aquatic species at risk by destroying valuable habitat.

Colonies of these noxious weeds have spread widely due to the fact that they have creeping root stalks (rhizomes) and cut sections of the plant can root directly into soil producing a mature plant. Additionally, this plant spreads through seed. It can form massive and deep root clusters as deep as nine feet and can grow in shady stands up to twelve feet tall. According to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, while knotweeds form massive root clusters they lack the ability to control erosion during flood events. Instead of holding soil, sections of the infestation wash downstream where rhizome and stem pieces set roots and create new colonies.

The Chehalis Basin Watershed is being invaded by this plant, and left to it's devices, we as concerned citizens, governments, tribes and other groups will soon have a massive problem on our hands.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Check your property. If you have knotweed control it using the methods described on page 2.
- Call your local noxious weed board for assistance.
- Volunteer with your local weed control program.

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Membership is vital to the ongoing work of the Task Force. Invite a friend to join you with our efforts for producing salmon for sport and commercial fisheries; enhancing Steelhead and Cutthroat trout resources; and restoring, enhancing and protecting stream habitat critical to these anadromous species. Please pass this monthly newsletter on to someone who may be interested...



Membership Form

Name: _____

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Amount Enclosed: _____

- Silver Membership.....\$15
- King Membership.....\$30
- Associate Enhancer.....\$60
- Patron Enhancer.....\$100
- Golden Enhancer.....\$500
- Business Membership.....\$200
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Membership is: Individual Organizational

Please make checks payable to: **Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force,**

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Knotweed Control Methods

FOLIAR TREATMENT: Spray herbicides containing glyphosate or imazapyr such as RoundUp™, Aquamaster™, Habitat™, and Arsenal™ on the leaves. Aquamaster™ and Habitat™ are aquatic herbicides that are restricted for use in WA state to licensed applicators only. RoundUp™ and Arsenal™ are upland herbicides for use on plants at least 50 feet away from a water body. **READ AND FOLLOW LABEL ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.** Knotweed commonly grows in wet areas that threaten riparian sites. For wet areas infested with knotweed contact a licensed applicator to develop a control plan. Only spot applications are recommended. Most patches require more than one year of treatment. Prompt and vigorous treatment by spraying herbicides on knotweed during flowering is key (Sept. 1—first freeze) because the herbicide goes directly to the root system. If knotweed is over open water, application can only be done by a licensed applicator with an aquatic endorsement.

STEM TREATMENTS: Non-spray methods can be conducted by injecting herbicides containing glyphosate directly into the lower sections of each stem, or pouring slightly diluted herbicide into 2" hollow

cores of cut knotweed stems. *Any use of the injection or cut stem methods that are not clearly allowed for on the product label is a violation of federal and state regulations. Contact your local weed control board for current information regarding these treatment methods.*

MANUALLY PULL OR DIG (for new or small colonies): Pull or dig out surface roots of knotweed in loose soil. Check often for new sprouts and repeat. Cutting the stems close to the ground every two weeks throughout the growing season in another alternative; however, both of these methods require several years of persistent treatment for successful control. Additionally, manually pulling, digging or cutting will require the plant is disposed of properly. Any cut stems left on moist soil, in compost, or allowed to drift into waterways will re-grow. Dry or carefully dispose of all knotweed material.

For large infestations, this method is not effective.

CONTACTS: Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control Board: nessn@cahnr.wsu.edu, or (360) 482-2265. Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board: wamsleyb@wsu.edu, or (360) 740-1215.