

## **Knotweed (*Reynoutria spp.*)**



*(Credit: David Short from Windsor, UK / CC BY (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>))*

There are four species of invasive Knotweed common in the Fraser Valley – Japanese, Himalayan, Giant, and Bohemian Knotweed. All four of these species look and behave similarly, but Japanese and Bohemian Knotweed are the most common in the District of Kent. Their stems look similar to bamboo, but with large spade-shaped leaves and small white flower clusters.

Knotweed species can grow up to several meters in a single season and have been known to grow through concrete and asphalt, or into water infrastructure causing damage to homes and reducing property values. In the UK, approximately 3 billion USD is spent annually controlling Knotweed, and it commonly affects the ability of homeowners to sell their homes or acquire home insurance. Knotweed also commonly outcompetes other plant species, causing ecological damage or impairing crop growth.



Knotweed reproduces from seed, but also from stem or root cuttings. It can regrow an entire plant from as little as 0.5 grams of plant material. For this reason, mowing, cutting, or pulling knotweed is NOT recommended, as it often grows back more intensely or spreads to new sites. Some landowners have had some success using goats or pigs to eat knotweed, but reports of the effectiveness of this treatment are mixed.

Treatment through chemical herbicide is the most effective method for controlling Knotweed species. Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is effective when applied via spray on the leaves, or injected into the stem. Two treatments per year are recommended – one in early June before plants produce seed, and one in early Fall when plants are approaching dormancy. Care should be taken to avoid applying herbicide near streams, ditches, or other waterbodies to avoid ecological damage. Roundup is commercially available and can be applied legally by landowners, for plants on the BC Noxious Weeds list, such as Knotweed.



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Alternatively, the landowner can hire a professional weed service to apply herbicide and treat Knotweed on their property. To report Knotweed on your own property or on District property, and learn more information about your treatment options, contact Dave Charbula, Environmental and Engineering Technologist at [dcharbula@kentbc.ca](mailto:dcharbula@kentbc.ca) or 604-796-2235.

For more information, see the following links:

<https://bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/knotweed>

<https://bcinvasives.ca/documents/ISCBC-Factsheet-Knotweeds-180216-WEB.pdf>

[https://bcinvasives.ca/documents/Knotweeds\\_TIPS\\_Final\\_07\\_22\\_2016.pdf](https://bcinvasives.ca/documents/Knotweeds_TIPS_Final_07_22_2016.pdf)

<https://fviss.ca/invasive-plant/knotweed-species>

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/InvasiveSpeciesBMP-Knotweed-v3.pdf>