

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

FAQ

What is Japanese Knotweed?

Japanese knotweed is an incredibly invasive and destructive species of plant, with hollow stems, giving it the appearance of bamboo, though it's not closely related.

It's visually appealing, can't I plant it in my yard and manage it myself?

It is against the law to plant Japanese Knotweed. It is classified as a noxious weed under Schedule A of the BC Weed Act, meaning it is prohibited to intentionally plant on private or public property. It has been sold in the past by garden centres as 'false bamboo', however none carry it now, as required by law.

Why is Japanese Knotweed a problem?

Listed by the World's Conservation Union as one of the world's most invasive species, Japanese knotweed has deep, strong root systems that can do significant damage to concrete foundations, buildings, water and sewer lines, roads, pavement, and retaining walls. It has the potential to grow several meters, over property lines and into neighbouring areas.

What is the best way to remove it?

The plant is resilient to cutting, and is expected to resprout vigorously if cut back. ***Do not cut back knotweed or move cuttings!*** This will cause the plant to spread. The most effective method of control is through the application of herbicide. The herbicide must travel through the root system to be effective. The abundance of the plant can be significantly reduced by applying the herbicides 'glyphosate' (commonly known as Roundup), 'imazapyr,' or a combination of both.

It is highly recommended to obtain professional advice and take appropriate safety precautions in the application of herbicides. The City is paying to have public lands sprayed, and is encouraging the public and local businesses to hire a professional to treat the knotweed on your private lands. You can contact Spectrum Resource Group Inc. at 250.596.8783 to arrange for professional treatment. Cost varies depending on the size of the impacted area, but an average size lot will cost \$50 to treat.

How long will it take to get rid of it?

In rare cases it is possible to eradicate Japanese knotweed in one growing season using only herbicides. More often, full eradication takes two to five years to accomplish.

What is the City doing to address the problem?

The City is in contact with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, who organizes the treatment of invasives species, including Japanese Knotweed. As previously mentioned, the City is treating City lands.

In the meantime, we are keeping an inventory of all locations of knotweed, to better understand which areas are worst affected. If you have found Japanese knotweed on your property, or in your neighbourhood, please report it online at: <http://www.princ Rupert.ca/community/online-forms/knotweed>. Or, if you've got a smartphone, you can download the Report A Weed app for both Apple and Android phones to report the location of the plant and upload an image of it.

