



*Japanese knotweed has taken over the understory of a riparian alder forest.
(Photo: Troy Abercrombie)*

*****NOXIOUS WEED ALERT*****

The Knotweeds

Knotweeds are perennials in the buckwheat family that are native to Asia. There are 4 species: Japanese, Himalayan, Giant and Bohemian. Bohemian knotweed is a hybrid of Japanese and Giant and is often indistinguishable from Japanese knotweed.

Japanese, Bohemian and Giant knotweeds are robust, bamboo-like plants with hollow stems and spade shaped leaves while Himalayan knotweed has lanceolate leaves and lacks hollow stems. All 4 species grow in large clumps or hedgerows on wet sites and riparian areas. Knotweeds were introduced as a landscaping and ornamental plant.

Why is it a problem?

Knotweeds are extremely vigorous colonizers that spread through rhizomes, stem fragment cloning and prolific seed production. They can quickly take over even the most intact riparian areas and create dense monocultures.

Knotweed root systems are poor at holding soil and when it dies back in winter, leave riparian areas at extreme risk of erosion. They have little wildlife value and displace critical species that contribute to water quality and provide habitat.

Knotweeds also pose a serious threat to infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks and building foundations. In Washington, the

economic impacts of knotweed are estimated between \$1.8-5 million, annually. Lost income totals over \$1.2 million, annually.

What Can You Do?

Knotweed is very difficult to control once established. Manual digging is only recommended for very small infestations. Cutting or chopping can help starve the root systems but typically invigorates plants and is very labor intensive.

Herbicide treatment can be extremely effective, but please consult your local SWCD for guidance and always follow label instructions.

More info on knotweeds:

[ODA Profile](#)

[Newsweek Article](#)

How Do I Report Knotweed?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Call 1-866-INVADER

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)



*Above: Himalayan knotweed has created a hedgerow along this roadside riparian area.
Below: Giant knotweed can grow to nearly 20' tall.
(Photos: Troy Abercrombie)*

