

Japanese Knotweed Treatment Options

Japanese knotweed is such an aggressive plant that you will need at least five years to eliminate it, so plan long term! **Please send a copy of your data and photos to Rockport Garden Club, 14 Eden Road, Rockport, MA 01966.** Contact Nan Blue at 978-546-9755 or Laura Hallowell at 781-799-5988.

All data sheets are available on the RGC website/Knotweed Project/Data Sheets, www.rockportgardenclub.org/KnotweedProject.html.

Wetlands

If you are within 100 feet of a wetland (pond, ocean, stream), special restrictions apply. The Garden Club will help you to apply for the required permit and help you with every phase of the work. Please call Laura or Nan if you are near a wetland. Using Roundup in a wetland will be harmful to the area and is against the law. The Rockport Conservation Commission is very supportive of our efforts.

Recommended methods

(Mass Audubon, US Fish and Wildlife Parker River Refuge)

Method for patches small enough to use stem filling:

Since this is a labor intensive process, Knotweed is cut, bagged, and the stems are filled immediately. It can be done from mid-July until early September, but is best done before the flowers bloom. It is thought that most flowers are sterile but some do produce viable seeds.

Step 1. Cut the knotweed stalks just below a node, about 6" from the ground. We recommend cutting only 3-4 stalks at a time and then immediately applying 3-5 ml (about 3/4 teaspoon) concentrated Roundup, 18-24% glyphosate, to fill the stem. (If you cut a large number at a time it is difficult to keep track of which ones you have filled. Also, the filling may not be timely.) The Garden Club will lend you the appropriate squeeze bottle.

Step 2. Bag all plant fragments in heavy-duty contractor bags and place in trash for burning. Both the rhizomes and stems can re-sprout when in contact with water or moist soil. We have DPW permission for you to place these bags in the trash to be incinerated.

Step 3. Record your data about cutting and treating on the JK Treatment data sheet.

Method for very large patches where foliar spray is needed:

Step 1. Cut JK close to ground in mid June-mid July. Re-growth will sap the plant's energy. Bag all plant fragments in heavy-duty contractor bags and place in trash for burning. Both the rhizomes and stems can re-sprout when in contact with water or moist soil. We have DPW permission for you to place these bags in the trash to be incinerated.

Record your data about cutting on the JK Treatment data sheet

Step 2. Apply Roundup (glyphosate) 4-5 weeks later, in mid July to mid August. The plants should be well leafed out with a lot of surface area to absorb the herbicide. Spray the foliage, use Roundup, 2 to 5% glyphosate. Be sure to follow the directions on the label.

Record your data re: herbicide treatment on the JK Treatment data sheet,

Step 3. Monitor the patch and reapply Roundup to any regrowth by early September. Record your data.

Fewer than 50 stems in an isolated patch, options manual/mechanical control with no herbicide (Source: King County [WA State] Noxious Weed Control Program, Invasive Knotweed BMP, www.kingcounty.gov/weeds)

This can be appropriate when there is good access to the site, fewer than 50 stems, and a strong commitment to intensive control for at least five years.

Method 1. Dig up entire plants. Bag all plant fragments since both the rhizomes and stems can resprout when in contact with water or moist soil. We have DPW permission for you to place these bags in the trash to be incinerated.

Continue to monitor area within 20-60 feet of patch and dig up plants and as much root as possible when you see it.

Record your data about cutting and treating on the JK Treatment data sheet.

Method 2. Cutting/mowing Cutting stimulates shoot growth and depletes the roots. However, frequent cutting many make JK produce smaller stems that could make future treatment more difficult, so do not undertake this method unless you can maintain the effort for at least 5 years.

Cut stems twice a month from April through August to keep plants under 6". Cut them once a month through the first frost.

Bag all plant fragments and discard in trash to be burned. For very large areas, rake plant fragments together to dry out. These can be burned. Monitor for re-growth within 20-60 ft of original infestation.

Record your data about cutting and treating on the JK Treatment data sheet.

Method 3. Cover with fabric or heavy cardboard. See attached references for details on this and other methods.

Method for compromised knotweed with small shoots and/or thin stems

If you have been regularly cutting knotweed or digging it up by the roots (rhizomes), the plant responds by putting out weaker shoots that are sometimes too

thin to have a cavity in which to place the herbicide. If this is the case there are some alternative methods.

Method 1: Use the **foliar spray** with 2-5% glyphosate. Protect surrounding plants and grass with newspaper or brown paper bags. If knotweed is in the middle of a desirable lawn or flowers, make a slit in a piece of cardboard (or two) and slip it around the knotweed to protect the other plants until the glyphosate dries. Glyphosate is a wide spectrum herbicide which will kill almost any plant.

Method 2 Leaf wiping: Put on rubber/latex gloves followed by a cotton glove. Dip the cotton glove in 2-5% glyphosate and then use it to wet the leaves and stem of the knotweed while protecting desirable plants with paper or cardboard as described above. Let the glyphosate dry. You can also use a sponge on a stick or sponge with reservoir for soap solution. These may be easier. To clean, swish several times in moderate amounts of water. See below.

Cleaning equipment and gloves used with glyphosate

Rinse at least 3-4 times with water and pour the rinse water in an area where you do not mind killing the vegetation. **Do not pour the solution down the sink.** If near a wetland **pour it on the ground as far from the wetland as possible.**

Rinsing several times with small amounts of water and mixing thoroughly is more effective than using a larger amount of water only once or twice.

Web sites:

King County [WA State] Noxious Weed Control Program, Invasive Knotweed BMP, <http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/Knotweed-Control.pdf>

Montana State University Extension Service, <http://msuextension.org/publications/AgandNaturalResources/EB0196.pdf>

New England Wildflower Society, <http://www.newfs.org/protect/invasive-plants/removal/common-invasives-management.html>