Knotweed is an aggressive and destructive weed that spreads quickly, shades out native plants and destroys habitat. We need to act now! Within a few years it will be virtually impossible to control knotweed.

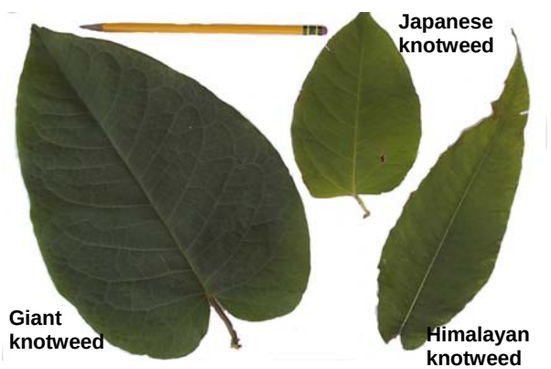
What is knotweed?

Japanese, Giant, Bohemian, and Himalayan knotweed are perennial plants native to Asia, but escaped from gardens here. Common names include Mexican or Japanese bamboo, elephant ear and fleeceflower. By any name, they are noxious weeds and a critical threat to *the health of our rivers*.

Scientific names include:
Polygonum cuspidatum, P. sachalinese, P. bohemicum, and P. polystachyum.

What does it look like?

- Dense stands up to 12 feet tall
- Bamboo-like green or reddish stems
- Bright green leaves 1 to 12 inches wide with smooth (not saw-toothed) edges
- Starts growing in April; full sized by July
- Spikes of small, white flowers in late summer
- Dormant in winter, the dead, brown stems may remain standing
- Bohemian knotweed, not shown, is a hybrid of giant and Japanese. The leaves are intermediate between parents.



Flowering knotweed branch

Where does it grow?

Knotweed thrives in any moist soil or river cobble, in full or partial sunlight. Most common in the flood plains along rivers and creeks, it also grows in roadside ditches, waste areas and beaches.

How does it spread?

In the Pacific Northwest, knotweed usually spreads when roots are moved by floods or in contaminated soil. Because root fragments as small as ½ inch can start new plants, even one patch can produce hundreds of new plants.

Why is knotweed a problem?

Knotweed is fast growing and extremely aggressive. It invades river and creek banks, permanently displaces native vegetation, destroys critical fish and wildlife habitat and reduces recreational opportunities. It can invade man-made structures such as foundations and roads, causing expensive damage. Due to a huge and vigorous root system, large patches are very difficult to eradicate. Seasonal flooding continues to spread knotweed throughout many Northwest watersheds. Numerous patches can be found throughout the Peninsula, as well as adjacent areas of the state.

How can it be controlled?

Several treatment options are described here. Because of knotweed's tremendous ability to resprout following cutting, successful control usually requires herbicides. Please check with your local extension agent, weed board or the Department of Agriculture for information about the proper, safe and legal use of herbicides. A special permit and license is required when using herbicide near waterways.

- **Spray Herbicide** containing glyphosate (e.g. Rodeo, Aquamaster, Roundup, Aquaneat) or in combination with Imazapyr (e.g. PolarisAQ, Habitat) on the leaves and stems in summer or early fall. To avoid spraying very tall plants, it is possible to cut the stems once in May or June and allow the plant to regrow to at least waist height. Most patches require more than one year of treatment.
- **Non-spray Herbicide Methods** include injecting undiluted herbicide directly into the lower sections of every stem or wiping slightly diluted herbicide directly onto stems. Some limitations, as indicated on the label, apply. *Always read and follow directions on the product label and keep herbicides out of waterways. Desirable plants hit with spray will be injured or killed.*
- **Manually Pull or Dig** individual canes or brand new infestations, removing all the roots of plants in loose soil. Check often for new sprouts and repeat. Or, CUT the stems close to the ground every two weeks throughout the growing season. Both methods will require several years of persistent treatment for successful control. ***Warning: Cut stems or root fragments left on moist soil, in the river or in compost WILL regrow. Carefully dispose of knotweed material and monitor disposal sites*.**

What can I do?

Check Your Property. If you have knotweed, control it using the methods described.

Call Us! - We are mobilizing efforts to control knotweed in a watershed near you. Concerned citizens, weed boards, tribes, watershed councils, conservation organizations, and public agencies are all teaming up to control knotweed. **Our highest priority is controlling knotweed near waterways or in flood zones.** For help or detailed control information, contact one of the groups listed on the back of this brochure.

Avoid Spreading Knotweed. Be careful working around knotweed, as small fragments can get into machinery, dirt piles or the river and be moved to other areas.


"Wiping" knotweed with herbicide

Volunteer with your local control program. It is only by working together that we can stop the spread of this noxious weed.

Information Resources

These internet sites provide information about knotweed and other invasive species:

- www.clallam.net/weed/
- http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/polycusp.html
- www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/aqua015.html
- http://agr.wa.gov/plantsinsects/weeds/knotweed/knotweed.htm

We Can Help!

If you have questions about knotweed control, have knotweed on your property and want assistance, aren't sure if you have knotweed, or would like to volunteer, please contact us:

CLALLAM COUNTY

Clallam County Noxious Weed Control
(360) 417-2442 (Port Angeles)
clucero@co.clallam.wa.us
For **West Clallam County** call-360-963-2300

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe - Port Angeles
(360) 457-4012 x14
mike.mchenry@elwha.nsn.us

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe - Sequim
(360) 681-4603
hturnbull@jamestowntribe.org

Makah Tribe - Neah Bay
(360) 645-3069
jgallie@centurytel.net

Olympic National Park - Port Angeles
N. Coast-Cascades Network Exotic Plant Mngt.
(360) 565-3076
Dan_Campbell@nps.gov

Quileute Natural Resources - La Push
(360) 374-2027
frank.geyer@quileutenation.org

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Control
(360) 482-2265 (Elma)
nessn@cahnrs.wsu.edu

Quinault Indian Nation - Taholah
(360) 276-8215 x290 (Quinault DNR)
jplampin@quinault.org

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control
(360) 379-5610 x205 (Port Hadlock)
noxiousweeds@co.jefferson.wa.us

10,000 Years Institute - Port Townsend
(360) 385-0715
jsilver@10000YearsInstitute.org

MASON COUNTY

Mason County Noxious Weed Control
(360) 427-9670 x592 (Shelton)
pgrover@cahnrs.wsu.edu

Before and After Photos of a Knotweed Treatment Site in Sekiu, WA

BEFORE Treatment: Knotweed taking over a picnic area and choking out native vegetation.

AFTER Treatment: Knotweed dying back, native vegetation returning.

Services to control knotweed are currently funded by grants from Washington State Department of Agriculture, (360) 902-1853 in Olympia, United States Department of Agriculture, National Forest Service, (360) 956-2320 in Olympia, the North Olympic Community Salmon Fund, and the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board. Projects are limited to certain priority areas and are based on funding availability.

This brochure was printed with funding provided by Clallam Conservation District using a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant.

Photo of leaf comparisons was provided by **Laurel Shiner** and additional photos, unless noted, were provided by **Olympic Knotweed Working Group.**

Knotweed taking over both sides of the bank on Lake Creek in Beaver, WA

KNOTWEED

Without prompt action,
knotweed destroys native habitat, takes over entire riverbanks, and damages recreational quality of Northwest rivers.

Help save our lands and rivers from this destroyer of watersheds