

Knotweed Do's and Don'ts

Don't let knotweed move into rivers and streams. Stems and roots that break loose can float downstream and establish new infestations.

Don't compost root crowns and rhizomes. Instead, discard with the trash or take to a transfer station for disposal. Stems can be composted but **make sure all stem pieces are completely dried out** (brown and brittle). Keep freshly cut root fragments out of compost piles.

Don't spread soil contaminated with knotweed roots or rhizomes. Any soil that is obtained within 20' of a knotweed patch could contain fragments which can grow into new plants. If you are using fill dirt, check the pile to see if there is knotweed growing nearby or ask your supplier.



Remove knotweed on your property. Follow the tips in this brochure or in the resources listed on the back to effectively rid your property of knotweed. Join others in your neighborhood to pool resources and get knotweed out of your community.

Be careful while working around knotweed, particularly if you are mowing or doing yard work. Small fragments can get into dirt piles and take root or get transported to other areas.

Encourage natives. Plant native species around your property to help improve wildlife habitat and healthy rivers. Fill gaps with natives suited to the site.

Volunteer your time. Help educate others about knotweed, or offer to help those controlling knotweed in your area. Help distribute knotweed information in your neighborhood.

Eliminate knotweed wisely. Always use appropriate aquatic formulated herbicides when applying chemicals near any body of water.

Call us! We are mobilizing efforts to control knotweed along many waterways in Pierce County. For more information contact the Pierce CD at 253-845-2973.



Why control knotweed?

- Knotweed destroys critical fish and wildlife habitat and reduces recreational opportunities on rivers.
- Knotweed can create bank erosion problems, clog small waterways and salmon streams, and displace native streamside vegetation. It reduces food sources for wildlife and lowers nutrient input into stream systems.
- Knotweed can overwhelm yards, restrict property access, and damage structures such as foundations and roads.

For More Information:

Pierce Conservation District
P.O. Box 1057, 5430 E. 66th Street
Puyallup, WA 98371 ~ 253-845-2973
www.piercecountycd.org

The Nature Conservancy Invasive Species website:
<http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3414>

Washington State Dept. of Agriculture Knotweed Program:
<http://www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Weeds/Knotweed/Knotweed.aspx>

Stem-injection tool information and ordering:
<http://www.jkinjectiontools.com>

Aquamarine label/supplemental label:
<http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld4BL018.pdf>

Polaris label/MSDS label:
<http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld8KR006.pdf>

Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board
www.piercecountyweedboard.wsu.edu

The Nature Conservancy provided some information contained in this brochure. Content has been revised, and is the responsibility of The Pierce Conservation District.

Help save our rivers!



Stop the spread of **INVASIVE KNOTWEED**



Pierce Conservation District

Getting to know Knotweed

Identification

Knotweeds are robust, bamboo-like perennials, introduced from Asia, that are spreading throughout the Pacific Northwest. The main species are Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), giant knotweed (*P.sachalinense*), and Bohemian knotweed (*P.x boemicum*, a hybrid species). Himalayan knotweed (*P.polystachyum*) is also present in some locations.

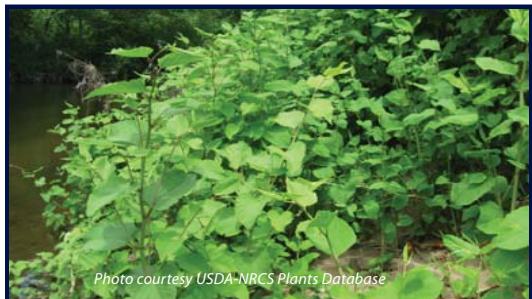


Photo courtesy USDA-NRCS Plants Database

Knotweed grows in dense stands 6-15 feet tall. Its stems are hollow, green to reddish in color and bamboo-like. Leaves are bright green, broad, egg- or heart-shaped, with a pointed tip. Small white flowers in branched sprays appear from July to August. Dormant in winter, the dead reddish-brown stems often remain standing. Knotweed emerges from root crowns in April and reaches full height by June/July. The heaviest concentrations are along rivers and roads, but knotweed is also found in backyards, forests, parks and farms. All invasive knotweed species are Washington State Class B Noxious Weeds. Control is recommended, not required in Pierce County, due to the widespread distribution of invasive knotweed in the county.

Knotweed spreads when roots and stems are moved by waterways, floods or in contaminated soil.

Without prompt, vigorous action knotweed will take over riverbanks, displace native habitat, and ruin the recreational values of Pierce County's waterways.

Seasonal floods sweep plants into rivers and creeks. These plants then fragment and disperse throughout the floodplains and cobble bars and new knotweed plants quickly establish from these fragments. Knotweed can also germinate from seed, though this is less common.

Knotweed Control

Controlling knotweed takes persistence and diligence. On waterways begin control at the furthest upstream infestation, because knotweed spreads downstream. Digging, cutting or covering can actually make knotweed grow stronger.

To help in the effort to control knotweed in Pierce County contact the District. The first step in effective control is to inventory the presence of knotweed so that an effective strategy for control can be planned and implemented.



Knotweed is inventoried by PCD Staff

Use only the following methods:

Chemical Control: If the knotweed is near water, a permit and special license may be required. Native plants, fish and other aquatic life may be harmed if herbicides are used improperly. Please check with your local noxious weed program and the Washington State Department of Agriculture about the proper use of herbicides.

Spraying: Apply a systemic translocating herbicide to actively growing plants. Two chemicals that are effective if used correctly are glyphosate (e.g. Roundup, Aquamaster) and imazapyr (e.g. Polaris, Habitat). Rate, timing and careful application are keys to effective and safe control, so follow all label directions carefully.

Contact our office if you have any questions. Best time to spray is from July to September, before leaf drop. It may take several weeks for chemical applications to show results. If you wish to cut down sprayed plants, wait at least a month after spraying.



Spray treatment by PCD Staff

Stem Injection: A measured amount of concentrated herbicide is injected into each hollow cane using a stem injection gun or large needle. This method is effective and reduces possible off-target vegetation damage compared to spraying. It is time consuming however, and uses more herbicide. Also there is a limit on how many canes can be treated per acre. The best time for injection is from July to September.

Only the chemical glyphosate is labeled for this method. Labelled products include Aquaneat, Aquamaster and Roundup Pro Concentrate. Although you can expect about 90% control, there will be some regrowth the following year that will be too small to inject and which will need to be controlled with spraying. More information on stem injection is available on the Pierce Conservation District's web site.



Stem injection by PCD staff

Knotweed does not stop at property lines and is constantly being moved by flood waters and other disturbances along waterways. Comprehensive large scale control of knotweed along waterways requires the cooperation of all the stakeholders and landowners along the riverside. The Pierce Conservation District is working cooperatively with organizations and federal, state and local agencies to control knotweed along several high priority waterways in Pierce County. Contact us for information on our current projects or to discuss future plans.