

JAPANESE KNOTWEED INFORMATION



PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT. ACT RESPONSIBLY.

DESCRIPTION

Although Japanese knotweed may appear attractive, it is ranked among the world's 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It prevents native plants from growing, reduces biodiversity, and can damage infrastructure. Along shorelines, it restricts access to waterways and increases the risk of flooding.

Japanese knotweed is a perennial plant with hollow stems that can reach up to 3 metres (10 feet) in height. Its oval- or triangular-shaped leaves are arranged alternately along the stem, creating a characteristic zigzag pattern. Clusters of small white flowers appear in late summer.

Japanese knotweed commonly establishes itself in the following locations:

- Gardens (as an ornamental plant);
- Shoreline and riparian areas;
- Wetlands;
- Roadside and railway embankments;
- Vacant lots and abandoned fields.



HOW TO LIMIT THE PRESENCE OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON YOUR PROPERTY



Do not cultivate or intentionally plant it.



Avoid mowing it, as mowing fragments can promote its spread.



If it is already present on your property, remove it as early as possible.

CONTROLLING JAPANESE KNOTWEED

The appropriate control method will depend on the size and location of the infestation. The following methods may help manage Japanese knotweed on your property.



SMALL INFESTATION

Pull young shoots by hand, gently removing the entire seedling or digging it out to remove the roots.



LARGE INFESTATION

Weaken the colony by repeatedly cutting and pulling the plants throughout the summer (approximately two to three times between June and August) over several consecutive years.



EXCAVATION

Cut the colony back, then excavate the soil to remove all roots and rhizomes, which can extend up to three metres (10 feet) deep and three metres (10 feet) outward. This method requires proper management of contaminated soil and replacement with clean fill.



COVERING (GEOTEXTILE METHOD)

Cut the colony back and install a durable, water-permeable geotextile fabric over the area, extending at least two metres (preferably three metres) beyond the infestation. Cover the fabric with at least 30 cm (12 inches) of soil, then plant dense native herbaceous vegetation. Inspect the area regularly and manually remove any new shoots that emerge.



JAPANESE KNOTWEED MUST NEVER BE COMPOSTED OR DISCARDED IN NATURAL AREAS.

Plant material should be placed in sturdy garbage bags and disposed of with household waste.



REPLANTING

After removal, plant native trees and shrubs to help shade the area and reduce the likelihood of regrowth.

Examples include:



Red-osier dogwood
(*Cornus sericea*)



Common elderberry
(*Sambucus canadensis*)



Ninebark
(*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
(for sunny locations only)



IMPORTANT – A MUNICIPAL PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL WORK WITHIN THE RIPARIAN PROTECTION BUFFER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MORIN-HEIGHTS

Because Japanese knotweed is often found near shorelines and wetlands, a permit from the Municipality of Morin-Heights is required before carrying out any work within the riparian protection buffer.

To obtain a permit, you must provide:



A completed and signed permit application form, available at: <https://www.morinheights.com/Formulaires-sommaire>



A riparian revegetation plan (mulch, gravel, rock landscaping, machinery, mowing, and any other materials or structures that inhibit vegetation growth are not permitted within the riparian buffer).



A description of the method that will be used to remove the Japanese knotweed. Within the riparian protection buffer, removal must be carried out manually or using hand tools only.

NO WORK MAY BEGIN UNTIL THE REQUIRED PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

