

Invasive Japanese Knotweed is not native to Vermont. Yet it is spreading quickly along our streams, rivers, and roadsides. As it grows, knotweed forms dense mats of roots and stems, killing off native vegetation. It degrades trout spawning habitat and clogs drainage ditches. Knotweed can crack pavement and damage retaining walls and building foundations.

Please help manage Japanese knotweed! Knotweed was brought to America as an ornamental plant for gardens. It's pretty. But it is bad.

- Type: perennial.
- Height: over 10 feet tall.
- Stems: red; hollow. Stems grow 3 to 4 inches per day in summer!
- Leaves: dark green, spade- or heart-shaped, up to 6 inches long, squared base, pointed tip.
- Flowers: sprays of tiny white flowers sprouting all along the stem.
- Reproduction: new plants form from pieces of rhizomes and stems.
- Status: On the [Vermont Noxious Weed Quarantine List](#)



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Flowers (above): USDA. Young shoots (left): VtInvasives.org, UVM and State of Vermont.



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Japanese knotweed along a Maine road

Photo: Town of Groton Massachusetts Invasive Species Committee; 2017.

What to Do:

- Mow or cut down knotweed 3-4 times every year to discourage spread.
- Dig out its root system. Get all of it! Each little piece can generate a new plant.
- Lay wire mesh (1/2-inch by 1/2-inch openings) on cleared patches; new knotweed will grow through the little holes and eventually girdle itself.
- Bag all plants and roots and let them rot.
- Revisit all sites annually for 5 years.

More information:

- <https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/a-new-way-to-treat-knotweed>
- <https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/knotweed-japanese>

Tell Us:

- Was this information helpful? Need more? Email LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or LesleyPollitt@gmail.com or call Laurel at (802) 368-2439.