

Best Management Practices for Knotweed



Japanese knotweed is a highly invasive species. The City has been leading efforts to make Powell River knotweed free.

Knotweed is a highly invasive species and very difficult to remove because it has extremely strong, deep root systems, and it often grows back larger after attempts to cut it down or dig it out.

Knotweed spreads by rhizomes, which can extend up to 3 metres deep and 20 metres wide, making it challenging to manage. New plants sprout from fragments of root and stem material, and even the smallest fragments can regenerate from depths on 1 metre or more, enabling knotweed to spread very easily and effectively.

Knotweed destabilizes banks, negatively affects fish habitat, and shades out native flora. It threatens our environmentally sensitive areas, as well as infrastructure.

The City has been working diligently to eradicate knotweed on municipal land and we hope property owners will join in efforts to make Powell River knotweed free.

If you are located within the City of Powell River here are some options from our Parks Department to help stop a knotweed invasion before it takes over:

Stem injection of a glyphosate herbicide, such as Round-Up, is the most effective treatment method for knotweed.

On residential properties knotweed stem injection treatments are a great way of directly killing the species without causing harm to local wildlife or plants.

This method is highly effective as it is absorbed throughout the rhizome and deep into the plant's root system, helping to completely eradicate the troublesome plant.



Stem injection with glyphosate herbicide is the most effective treatment for knotweed control.

1. Cut the plant off about 2 inches above the ground.

2. Slide a long strong wire down the hollow stem, piercing several stem segments. The wires are available for free by calling **604-485-8635**.

3. Spray the fresh cut with Roundup in the hollow stem.

4. Follow all precautions on the container label!

5. One common cause of spread is from unauthorized dumping of cut or dug

knotweed in green spaces, natural areas or piling it on property to burn in

month April and November, when backyard burning is permitted in Powell River.

6. Call the City for free pickup at 604-485-8635. For a small amount, break up the tops and bag them. For a large amount we can discuss options.

7. The knotweed will re-grow within a couple of months. Once regrowth hits about $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter, follow the same procedure as above. Continue until regrowth stops. Alternately, spray the small new leaves with Roundup.

8. The best time to treat knotweed with glyphosate is in July or August, when the plant is in the flower bud to blooming stage. Keep in mind that this process can take up to four years.

9. If you are not comfortable with this method, please hire a local landscape contractor to assist you.

10. Do not attempt to dig out knotweed. It loosens up the soil, allowing it to regrow stronger and more established. Knotweed will regrow from any missed piece of root and will require more herbicide to eliminate it.