

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 spreads by rhizomes, which has been said to extend up to 3 metres deep and 20 metres wide, making it challenging to manage. New plants sprout from any fragments of root or stem material, and even the smallest fragments can regenerate from depths of 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 previously compromised concrete.

The City of Powell River 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 application of a glyphosate herbicide, such as Round-Up, has proven to be the most effective treatment method for knotweed.

This stem application method has proven to be a great way of directly removing the plant without causing harm to adjacent plants or wildlife.

This method is highly effective as it is absorbed quickly and straight into the plant's root system.

Method:

Follow all precautions on the container label.

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



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

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

3. While the cut is still fresh, apply Roundup in the hollow stem and to your cut.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Multiple treatments are best however if you can only do one, the best time to treat knotweed with glyphosate is in September. Keep in mind that this process can take up to four years.

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

Never attempt to dig out knotweed. It loosens up the soil, allowing it to regrow, spread and be more difficult to successfully remove.

*Knotweed will regrow from any missed piece of root and will require more herbicide to eliminate it.