



Invasive & Noxious Weeds

Japanese Knotweed

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Japanese Knotweed is a noxious, invasive weed that can damage public and private streets, sidewalks, and driveways when it finds a hole in any crevice and makes a home there. Not only can it damage infrastructure, but it can also choke out other vegetative species because of the dense patches it grows in.

The City of Davenport has developed a treatment plan to control the spread, and hopefully one day eradicate the species, in public areas; however, it is critical this invasive weed be addressed on private property as well.

Things You Should Know

- The root system of Japanese Knotweed is thick and can spread up to 40 ft laterally and go as deep as 10 ft.
- Japanese Knotweed is highly transferable. Clean tools and equipment that come in contact with Japanese Knotweed to help prevent the spread. Do not allow cut pieces of the stem or rhizome to come in contact with water or moist soil to protect uninfected areas.



Other common names:

Fleeceflower, Mexican bamboo, huzhang



Identifying

- Leaves are alternate, not mirrored on the other side of the stem.
- Leaves are spade or heart shaped and 3 to 4 inches wide and 4 to 6 inches long.
- Flowers August through September. Flowers are creamy white or greenish, and tiny - 0.125".
- Hollow stalks start out reddish-brown in the spring when first emerging and become whitish and mottled with age.
- Leaves turn yellow in fall and drop.



The stem zig-zags.

Treatment and Removal

Spring

- Before plants reach 18 inches (April to June), spray with a growth regulator, with a 3-5% solution of Glyphosate or Triclopyr.
 - Repeat process as necessary to prevent flowering.

Fall

- Cut plants to 10-12 inches and carefully dispose of clippings as noted below. Follow-up with an application of herbicide.
 - Place all clippings in a garbage bag, seal and set outside. After two to three weeks, place garbage bags in your garbage can. **WARNING:** Do not place Japanese Knotweed in with yard waste, your home compost pile, or bring to the Davenport Compost Facility. It spreads quickly.
 - Wait one to two weeks after cutting, once new growth has sprouted, to treat with herbicide. Using a broadcast application, treat the area with a 5% solution of Imazapyr. Multiple applications may be necessary. Note, applications must be made before the plant goes dormant in the winter.



General

- Follow-up applications and cuttings are likely over next few years.
- Remember to read all herbicide labels before using. Use only in accordance with instructions provided. Labels provide important instruction on application and personal protective measures for skin and respiratory contact.
- Let your neighbors know when you spray herbicides. Consider placing warning signs that can be picked up at most home and garden centers.
- Alternative methods are available for controlling knotweed. Please contact the Natural Resources Dept. for more information.



Other Resources

- "History and Biology of Japanese Knotweed." The Japanese Knotweed Removal Company, 2018, www.knotweed-removal.co.uk/history-biology.htm.
- "Japanese Knotweed ." National Invasive Species Information Center | United States Department of Agriculture, 2004, www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/.
- "Invasive Species Rule -NR 40." Japanese Knotweed - Wisconsin DNR, dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/JapaneseKnotweed.html.
- "Legal Status ." Plants Profile for Polygonum Cuspidatum (Japanese Knotweed), plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=POCU6.

The City has identified several locations where Japanese Knotweed exists on public land.

If you see this sign, do not enter the area.