

Treating Japanese Knotweed in Wetland Buffer Zones

Japanese knotweed is such an aggressive plant that you will need at least five years to eliminate it, so plan long term! Please send a copy of your data and photos to the Rockport Garden Club, 14 Eden Road, Rockport, MA 01966. Contact Nan Blue at 978-546-9755 or Laura Hallowell at 781-799-5988 if you have questions.

Wetlands

If you are within 100 feet of a wetland (pond, ocean, stream), special restrictions apply. The Garden Club will help you to apply for the required permit and help you with every phase of the work. Please call Laura or Nan if you are near a wetland. Using Roundup in a wetland will be harmful to the area and is against the law. The Rockport Conservation Commission is very supportive of our efforts and is approving projects for groups of homeowners in the same area.

Recommended method

(Mass Audubon, US Fish and Wildlife Parker River Refuge)

Stem filling:

Since this is a labor intensive process, Knotweed is cut, bagged, and the stems are immediately filled with an herbicide appropriate for wetlands. It can be done from mid-July until early September, but is best done before the flowers bloom. It is thought that most flowers are sterile but some do produce viable seeds.

Step 1. In mid July to early September, cut JK close to ground, just below a node in the stem. While another person bags all plant fragments for incineration, immediately apply 3-5 ml (about 3/4 teaspoon) of Aquamaster, 27% glyphosate, to the cavity in the stem. It is best to only cut 3-4 stems at a time so that you do not lose track of their location.

The Garden Club will supply you with Aquamaster at cost and will lend you the appropriate squeeze bottle. The Garden Club will supply the contractor bags, but it is your responsibility to get them to the transfer station.

Step 2. Place the plant material in heavy-duty contractor bags, folding the stems in approximately 15-20" sections so that they will not pierce the bag. Place in trash for burning. Both the rhizomes and stems can re-sprout when in contact with water or moist soil. We have DPW permission for you to place these bags in the trash to be incinerated.

Step 3. Record your data about cutting and treating on the JK Treatment data sheet. You can print a copy by going to the RGC website/Knotweed Project/Data Sheets. Please share a copy of your data with Nan and Laura at the above address.

Step 4. Monitor the patch and reapply Aquamaster to any regrowth by mid- September. Record your data and send a copy of your data to Nan and Laura at the above address.

Situations where stem filling may not be appropriate

If you have been regularly cutting knotweed or digging it up by the roots (rhizomes), the plant responds by putting out weaker shoots that are sometimes too thin to have a cavity in

which to place the herbicide. If this is the case there are some alternative methods. We will work with you to determine the most effective method that will be appropriate near a wetland.

As the plant weakens, it completely changes its appearance. The leaves sometimes become arrow shaped, and the stems may become more stringy. Don't be fooled! You are gaining on it.

Method for compromised knotweed with small shoots and/or thin stems

Method 1: Use the foliar spray with 2-5% glyphosate. Protect surrounding plants and grass with newspaper or brown paper bags. If knotweed is in the middle of a desirable lawn or flowers, make a slit in a piece of cardboard (or two) and slip it around the knotweed to protect the other plants until the glyphosate dries. Glyphosate is a wide spectrum herbicide which will kill almost any plant.

Method 2. Put on rubber/latex gloves followed by a cotton glove. Dip the cotton glove in 2-5% glyphosate and then use it to wet the leaves and stem of the knotweed while protecting desirable plants with paper or cardboard as described above. Let the glyphosate dry.

Cleaning equipment and gloves used with glyphosate

Rinse at least 3-4 times with water and pour the rinse water in an area where you do not mind killing the vegetation. **Do not pour the solution down the sink.** If near a wetland **pour it on the ground as far from the wetland as possible.**

Rinsing several times with small amounts of water and mixing thoroughly is more effective than using a larger amount of water only once or twice.