



Japanese knotweed is an invasive noxious weed native to Asia. It was introduced into the United States as an ornamental. Some common names used for this plant include: elephant ear bamboo, Mexican bamboo or fleece flower.

This plant has an extensive and deep root system of rhizomes and can be difficult to eliminate. It can rapidly take over riparian corridors, roadsides, ditches, and lakes. Its root systems can reach up to 65 feet from the parent plant and can exceed 10 feet in depth. Plants can grow from 3 feet to 16 feet in height.

Plants can be seen growing as early as April and increase growth output throughout the spring months. Some plants may produce viable seed, but mainly spread via root and stem fragments.

Controlling this noxious weed species can be achieved, but a multi-year program has to be put in place.

Where to get more information on Noxious Weeds:

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
1111 Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
(360)902-2053
Website:
<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov>

Washington State Department of Agriculture
1111 Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
<http://www.agr.wa.gov>

WSU Extension Office;
Cowlitz County
1946 3rd Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
(360)577-3014

Cowlitz County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Administration Annex Bldg.
207 Fourth Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626
(360) 577-3117

<http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/noxiousweeds/>

Japanese knotweed *Polygonum cuspidatum*



Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board

Administration Annex Bldg. 1st Floor
207 Fourth Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626
(360)577-3117
Fax (360)442-7081

noxiousweeds@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Biological Control

Currently there are no biological insects in place to combat this invasive noxious weed.



The hollow stem of Japanese knotweed looks like that of true bamboo, but that is where the similarity ends. Stems are very brittle and break easily.

Integrated Pest Management Control Measures:

Mechanical:

- **Digging or cutting** plants to control this plant is Not effective. Segments of plant roots and stems will spread infestation.
- **Mowing** plants is Not recommended because segments of plant will start new plants and is not an effective means of control.
- **Cultivating** the ground is Not recommended.

Cultural:

- There are no effective cultural practices in place.

Biological:

- There are no biological controls in place for this noxious weed at this time.

Chemical:

Fall foliar spray – Best when applied to fully grown plants but after flower sets.

Glyphosate: Roundup, Killzall, Aquamaster*, Rodeo*

OR

Imazapyr: Arsenal*, Habitat*, Polaris*

Stem injection – apply to stems when plant is fully grown and before fall frost.

Glyphosate: Aquamaster*, Roundup Pro Concentrate

***Aquatic label use; requires an aquatic licensed applicator to apply near water. Check each chemical label for proper use, application restrictions and relevant information.**