

# Japanese Knotweed

*Polygonum cuspidatum*



## Why is Japanese knotweed a problem?

Japanese knotweed forms dense stands, invading riparian areas, crowding out all other vegetation and degrading wildlife habitat. It also creates a fire hazard in the dormant season and is difficult to control once established.

Japanese knotweed reproduces by seed and rhizome production and is often found on stream banks and disturbed areas.



## Recognizing Japanese knotweed

Japanese knotweed is a very aggressive, escaped ornamental plant.

It is a perennial species with spreading rhizomes and numerous reddish-brown, freely branched stems.

Plants can reach six to twelve feet tall. Leaves are oblong and sometimes heart shaped, and alternately arranged. Flowers are in panicles and usually white with a green tint. Stems are green, hard, hollow, jointed and swollen at nodes.



## YOU can help stop the spread of noxious weeds

- Report infestations
- Actively control noxious weeds on your property
- Contact Clark County's Vegetation Management Program for more information on species ID and recommended control methods
- Spread the word about noxious weeds, and why controlling them is so important

Remember, weeds are everyone's problem. Controlling noxious weeds on your property is your responsibility and the law.

## Online Resources

Clark County Noxious Weed Program  
[www.clark.wa.gov/weed](http://www.clark.wa.gov/weed)

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board  
[Www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System  
Mobile App: [www.eddmaps.org/west](http://www.eddmaps.org/west)

Scan this QR code to download



## For more information:

**Vegetation Management Program**  
**(360) 397-6140**  
**email: [weed.management@clark.wa.gov](mailto:weed.management@clark.wa.gov)**

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office:  
**Voice** (360) 397-2322, **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388,  
**Fax** (360) 397-6165, **E-mail** [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov).



Controlling noxious weeds on your property is your responsibility and the law.

Chapter 17.10 RCW, County Code Title 7

Clark County Public Works  
Vegetation Management  
(360) 397-2121  
[www.clark.wa.gov/weed](http://www.clark.wa.gov/weed)

# Japanese Knotweed

*Polygonum cuspidatum*



CLARK COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## Why control noxious weeds in Clark County?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that can be toxic, destructive, competitive and difficult to control once established.

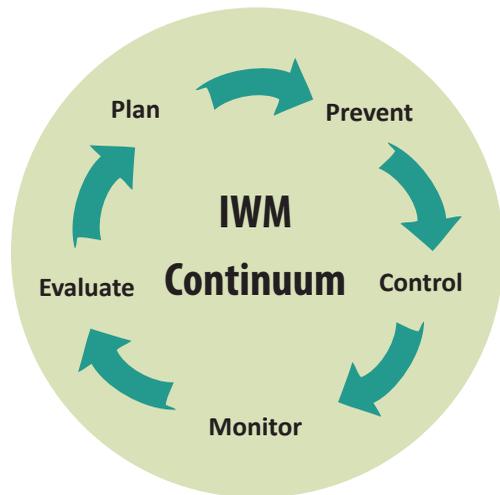
**Economics** - Noxious weeds cost the United States on average 30.6 billion dollars each year in decreased land value, money and time spent in control efforts, lower crop yields, reduced forage quality and impacts on animal health.

**Environmental health** - Noxious weeds displace native species, destroy natural habitat, clog waterways and increase erosion and fire risk.

**Human & animal health** - Many noxious weeds are toxic to humans and livestock. Contact or ingestion of some species can lead to serious health problems or death.

**Recreation** - Noxious weeds hurt recreation opportunities such as bird watching and fishing through reduced accessibility and destruction of native landscapes.

## Integrated Weed Management (IWM)



**An Integrated Weed Management plan is an ongoing, continuing cycle of weed prevention, control, monitoring, evaluation and planning**

## Managing weeds with Integrated Weed Management

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to use a combination of control methods specific to the problem weed, where it is in its growth-cycle, and the location where it is growing. This approach is called integrated weed management, or IWM, which uses biological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical (herbicide) control methods that treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

**Prevention is better than control** - The best control method of all is to prevent weeds in the first place. IWM starts with understanding the soil, water, natural resources and human impacts and uses on a site. For example, weeds often invade due to overgrazing, bare soil, or other factors that should be corrected for the control measures to be fully effective.

**Long-term effectiveness** – A good IWM plan is more effective than complete reliance on herbicide management. While not all control methods are useful for all weed species, taking an integrated approach to weed management can greatly increase the effectiveness of your efforts. As weed control is not a one-time fix, an IWM strategy should be practical, adaptable, cost-efficient, and effective.

## IWM control recommendations for Japanese knotweed

IWM control type	Control method	Effectiveness of control method							
		Small/backyard site				large/rural site			
		Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Physical & mechanical	digging			●				●	
	hand-pulling				●				●
	mowing				●				●
	tilling				●				●
Cultural	bark mulch				●				●
	black plastic				●				●
	cover crop				●				●
	native plant restoration				●				●
	soil amendment				●				●
Biological	managed grazing				●				●
	weed-feeding insects				●				●
		<b>Product examples *</b>							
Chemical	aminopyralid			●					●
	glyphosate		injection				injection		
	triclopyr amine				●				●

\* Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed chemical control. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. Always read and follow the herbicide label. For more information on specific herbicides, please contact Vegetation Management.

## THE WEED CONTROL TOOLBOX

**PHYSICAL**  
mowing  
pulling  
digging

Integrated Weed Management uses multiple tools in combination for the most effective weed control.

**CULTURAL**  
soil amendments  
cover crops-mulch  
native plants

**BIOLOGICAL**  
weed-eating insects  
managed grazing

**CHEMICAL**  
herbicides