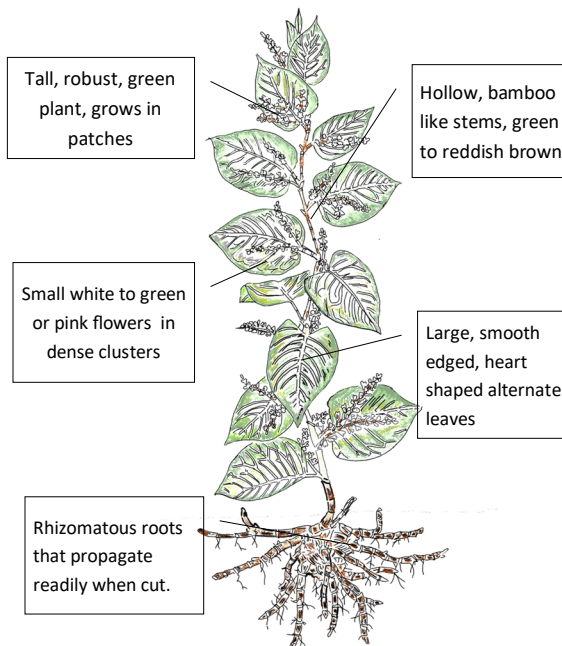




Guide for Removal of Invasive Knotweeds

DESCRIPTION

- ◆ Aggressive noxious weed that takes over when not controlled
- ◆ Spreads when cut, through dispersing of flowers and roots
- ◆ Prevents growth of native vegetation
- ◆ Can grow through concrete and undermine structures.
- ◆ Extremely harmful to salmon habitat, wetlands and streams.



Common Types of Knotweeds

- ◆ **Japanese/Bohemian Knotweed.** These are the most common knotweeds in our area, depicted on the left. The easiest way to distinguish the two strains is by their size. Bohemian Knotweed grows larger in height and leaf structure. There is a hybrid version when these two cross, called **Giant Knotweed**, that is almost twice as tall, with 2-times the size of leaves, but similar structure.
- ◆ **Himalayan Knotweed** has narrower leaves, is less common, and can be mistaken for an ornamental plant. (depicted below.)



Knotweed growing in concrete.

MECHANICAL OR MANUAL CONTROL

- ◆ Use when site is easily accessible, patch has less than 50 stems, intensive control is possible; or as a follow up to chemical control once plants are stunted. Monitor and repeat where necessary.

Cutting

- ◆ **When:** As soon as stems emerge in April/May, begin cutting as close to the ground as possible.
- ◆ **Tools:** Hand held tools (loppers, clippers); mower or weed eater is an option when set low to the ground (CAUTION). When using power tools make sure that fragments are contained to prevent spread to new areas. Keep fragments out of waterways.
- ◆ Rake and collect stems to dry (on a tarp is ideal). When dry, you can dispose of them.
- ◆ Keep shorter than 6 inches. Cut weekly April-August; biweekly August-late fall. Repeat for 7 seasons.

Digging

- ◆ Later in the season (e.g., August) cut canes for easy access to roots.
- ◆ Remove root by digging around the woody part of the root; some fragments will remain and re-sprout. Avoid breaking the roots to smaller pieces. **Dispose as garbage, do not compost.**
- ◆ Watch for new stems at least 20 ft away from original patch. Repeat for 5-7 seasons.

Covering

- ◆ Recommended for small isolated patches; use **heavy-duty** geotextile fabric.
- ◆ Cut down any canes to ground level, dispose properly (dry thoroughly, then compost).
- ◆ Cover area extending at least 10 feet beyond outside stems, overlap fabric at least 4 feet, and make sure there are no gaps. Don't puncture any part of the fabric when securing it in place, and leave it loose enough so the plants underneath it can grow at least a foot.
- ◆ Once a month, stomp plants growing under fabric and check it for tears or animal damage.
- ◆ Plan to leave 5-7 growing seasons, don't plant and don't mulch the area during that time.

*If you live on **fee-simple** land, Snohomish County Noxious Weeds may be able to provide some services to aid in control of this weed.

TULALIP TRIBES Natural Resources Department contacts:

Jon Hall, Wetland Biologist - (360) 716-4594

Brett Shattuck, Restoration Ecologist - (360) 716-4618

Natasha Coumou, Asst. Restoration Ecologist - (360) 716-4635



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CHEMICAL CONTROL

Carefully selected and applied herbicides can provide a viable and relatively efficient option for controlling Knotweed. To learn more about chemical controls and the options available to you, please visit our website (<https://nr.tulaliptribes.com/Topics/Wetlands>) or contact the Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Department.