



Wallowa County Weed Watch

Japanese Knotweed

Introduced from Asia as an ornamental, Japanese Knotweed is choking riparian areas across the Northwest. Look for it in your yard and garden!

The Problem

Japanese Knotweed plants grow vigorously and create dense colonies that exclude other vegetation. Knotweed grows so fast it can reach 10 feet by June. It grows faster than any native species and quickly shades them out. Once established in a stream it completely prevents other trees and shrubs from growing, disrupting the stream ecology.

Knotweed is a “creeping” perennial. This means it has a huge network of roots spreading 23 feet from the parent plant and penetrating more than 7 feet deep. These roots sprout new plants. Root fragments as small as ½” can form new colonies, allowing knotweed to spread effectively. It is extremely successful at colonizing disturbed moist areas, such as sediment deposited by floods or areas burned by fire.

Knotweed can be seen around Wallowa County, where it was planted as an ornamental in back yards and homesteads. It has been found at Imnaha and Snake River homesteads and is spreading. Knotweed is a high priority weed in Wallowa County and Oregon, requiring aggressive treatment measures.

Identification

Japanese Knotweed is a big plant! It's bamboo like stems grow up to 16 feet tall. The large, smooth-edged leaves alternate on the stems. The stems are often reddish or red-speckled and are hollow. The small white or greenish flowers form in July and August and grow in dense clusters from the leaf joints. Although it dies back to the ground after hard frosts, the stems may remain upright much of the winter as bare, reddish brown stalks.

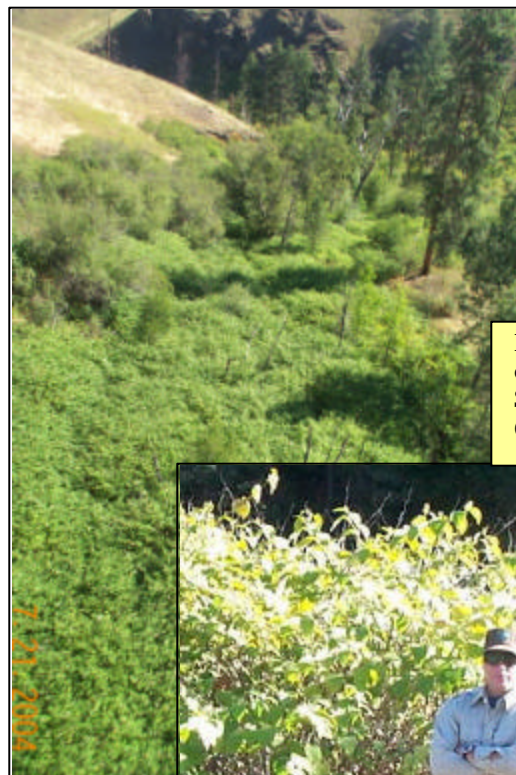
Treatment

Japanese Knotweed is extremely difficult to eradicate once established. Prevent new colonies from spreading! Frequent and thorough cutting and pulling over a period of years can eliminate isolated, small patches in soft soil.

Careful timing and application of herbicide may be the most effective method of control. In riparian areas apply Rodeo in the bud to early flowering stage. Use Garlon 3A when the plant is 3-5 ft. tall. Outside riparian areas you can cut the plant back in June and apply Banvel to new regrowth in late August. For small infestations, stems can be injected to prevent contact with water.

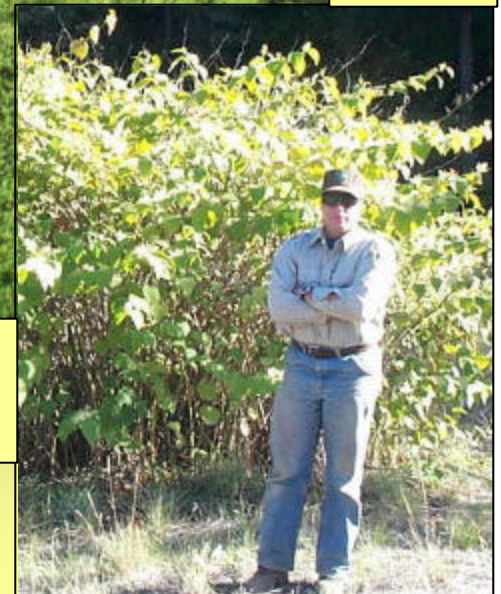


Flower clusters



Knotweed choking Sommer's Creek (left)

Mature clump of shoots (right)



Read and follow all label instructions when applying herbicides. Trade names have been used to simplify instructions and no endorsement or warranty is expressed or implied by the Wallowa County Weed Board or this brochure.

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