



## The Door County Invasive Species Team

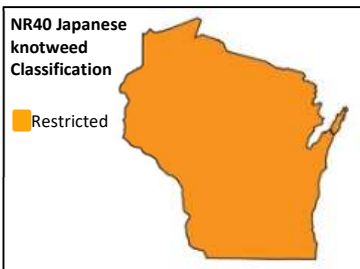
Empowering Door County citizens and municipalities with the information, tools, and skills to tackle invasive species.

### A Quick Guide to Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

#### What is Japanese Knotweed?

Japanese knotweed is an herbaceous perennial that resembles bamboo. Like bamboo Japanese knotweed forms large colonies. Japanese knotweed produces erect flower spikes comprised of smaller white flowers occurring at the end of branches. Plants can grow up to 12' tall. Stems are round, smooth and hollow with reddish-brown blotches. The root system or rhizomes of Japanese knotweed can spread horizontally up to 60' creating a dense underground network. The rhizomes are a dark brown with an orange core. Root fragments as small as a couple inches can re-sprout a new plant producing new infestations.

Japanese knotweed produces allelopathic compounds, chemicals toxic to surrounding plants, inhibiting the growth of native plants. It spreads readily along stream corridors as rhizomes are washed down stream during flood events posing a significant threat to streambank regeneration and increasing the likelihood of flood events by reducing the capacity of stream channels. Additionally, this species has been known to damage foundations and sprout through asphalt. A recent analysis in the UK revealed homes with knotweed lowers the values of an average home by 10%, due to potential structural damages this plant imposes.



#### Japanese Knotweed WI DNR Classification

Japanese knotweed is listed under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule Chapter NR 40 as a restricted species. Restricted species are those that are already present throughout the state of Wisconsin and are not likely to be eradicated. Restricted species are likely to cause significant environmental and economic harm or harm to human health. The NR 40 Rule makes it illegal to transport, transfer, or introduce invasive species listed as restricted.

#### How to Control Japanese Knotweed

There are mechanical and chemical control options available. Please note that manual and mechanical options can be used to reduce the abundance and area of a Japanese knotweed infestation, but there are few instances of these methods being shown to completely eradicate the species from a site and these methods take many years to see results. Mechanical methods include: hand cutting, mowing, digging/pulling, & covering populations. Chemical control is recommended for larger more established populations. It is important when doing any treatment to be careful not to spread root or shoot fragments, as these have the potential to re-sprout. Chemical control options include foliar applications and cut stem applications. A combination of mechanical and chemical control methods appears to be most effective. The applicator and /or landowner cuts back populations twice prior to a foliar herbicide application.



Many herbicides, herbicide combinations and application methods have been tried on knotweed and work to a greater or lesser degree. Like any other weed control method, herbicides will fail if used incorrectly. Using herbicide correctly means: using an herbicide that specialized for site conditions & designated for target species, using correct concentration (rate) of herbicides active ingredient, using an adjuvant if recommended (adjuvants are spray additives which may help the herbicide work more effectively), using the right application method made under the appropriate conditions, and applying herbicide during the correct timing to coincide with plant susceptibility. Make sure to read and follow all directions and follow any restrictions or precautions listed on the product label. Additionally, depending on population location applicators may be required to have a specialized certification, use site specific approved herbicides, and acquire permits prior to treatment (example: treatments in aquatic habitats). For more information about treatment efficacy please check out the UW Extension Invasive Plants Factsheet: <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A3924-11.pdf>.



### **Control Efforts in Door County and How to Help**



The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) is a group of natural resource professionals and interested public members that are concerned about the preservation of Door County's natural environment. DCIST seeks to halt the invasion of exotic, non-native plants by empowering citizens with the education, tools and skills necessary to control invasive species. DCIST is committed to educating, preventing, minimizing, and eradicating invasive plants and reducing their impact on Door County's natural resources, economic viability, and human welfare. The partnership promotes an open exchange of information, public and private sector coordination, and citizen involvement.

Japanese knotweed is one of four priority invasive species that the County targets year to year. Additionally, most municipalities within Door County have adopted noxious weed ordinances, many of these ordinances target Japanese knotweed. These municipalities can participate in the County Invasive Species Cost Share Program. If you would like to participate in the Municipal Cost Share Program reach out to your municipal clerk to inquire. DCIST also secures control grants to treat populations within specific project areas, landowner permission slips are mailed out for all populations inventoried within DCIST project areas. To see populations that have been inventoried please visit the Door County Web Map at: <http://map.co.door.wi.us/map/>.

Please report any invasive species population to DCIST via their website at [www.Doorinvasives.org](http://www.Doorinvasives.org) or using the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) app <https://apps.bugwood.org/apps/gledn/>, or by reaching out to the DCIST coordinator via email at [DCIST1@gmail.com](mailto:DCIST1@gmail.com) or leave a message on the DCIST message line at (920) 746-5955. These reports help keep inventories up to date and allow landowners to benefit by participating in the Municipal Cost Share Program and/or receive educational resources and potential control resources through grant funding.

