

JAPANESE KNOTWEED COMPLEX

Polygonum spp.



CONTROL

Hand Pulling

Hand pulling is only effective on small infestations if done at least twice a month or as new shoots emerge. Using a digging tool, remove the entire plant to prevent resprout. Since knotweed can re-establish from root or stem fragments, all parts of the plant that are removed should be placed on a tarp and allowed to completely dry out before being burned. They can also be bagged and disposed of in dumpster.

Mowing

Mowing by itself is not the most efficient control technique. Herbicide control has been shown to be more effective if mowing is done consistently (at least three times a year for multiple years).

Biological control

N/A

Grazing

Knotweed is palatable for almost all forms of livestock, but grazing will not kill the plants. Grazing could potentially reduce the size and vigor of knotweed infestations if it is heavy and consistent. However, if fragments are spread as a result of grazing, this could induce a larger infestation.

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options

Spring	Summer	Fall
Grubbing		
	Foliar	Foliar
Mowing		
Cut-Dab treatment		

Herbicide

There are a number of herbicides that have proven effective in controlling knotweeds in Western Montana. Care should be taken when knotweed infestations occur in wetland or riparian areas to use appropriately labeled herbicides. Cutting an infestation and waiting for fresh re-growth prior to herbicide treatment may also increase effectiveness. The herbicide chart on the back lists approved controls for Japanese knotweed. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application.



Japanese Knotweed Complex Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit	Toxic
Perennial	Rhizomes	Alternate, stalked, broadly oval to heart-shaped or triangular. Giant knotweed leaves are 1 foot long or longer and 2/3 as wide. Japanese knotweed leaves are 6 inches long by 3 to 4 inches wide. Bohemian knotweed is a hybrid between giant and Japanese knotweed that looks very similar to Japanese and varies in size.	Hollow, smooth, weakly woody, jointed, swollen at nodes, up to 20 feet tall. Base surrounded by membranous sheath.	Greenish-white flowers, 3/8 to 1/3 inch wide, in clusters at branch tips.	Black and ribbed.	Horses, cattle, goats

Herbicides for Japanese Knotweed Complex, Polygonum spp.

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
Dicamba	0.25 lb ae mixed with 1 gallon water/ 400 sq ft	Late august to newest re-growth after previous cutting in June	Do not apply in areas where roots of desirable plant species are growing
Glypho-sate	2.5-8% solution (spray)	Spring/Fall, actively growing plants.	One of the most effective herbicides. Safe on grasses unless used at more than 7 oz/acre a year.
25% solution (cut-dab)	2 pints/acre	Spring/Fall, actively growing plants.	Can be applied to waters edge; cannot be used in landscaped areas and current/future vegetable gardens.

Information on diagnostic identifying characteristics adapted from "Montana's Noxious Weeds" by Pokorny and Mangold, Montana State University Extension Bulletin EB0159.