

Green Shoots® Guidance on Controlling a Large Stand of Invasive Knotweed

Here's what I recommend for treating larger infestations (greater than about 500 sq. ft) of invasive Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and the other three invasive knotweeds in North America. Before you start:

1. Have you identified the target plant correctly? If unsure, consult an expert.
2. Read the herbicide label. Some states require permits to apply herbicides near water bodies.
3. Have you used one of our herbicide dispensers before? If not, test it using a spray mix that replaces the herbicide with water.

Use either our Large Handheld Foam Dispenser or our Precision Electronic Dispenser. If the knotweed stand is near a water body, use our aquatic glyphosate herbicide.

Treatment Preparation: Spring and Summer: In early spring, go through the infestation area and knock down the dried stems from last year's growth. This will make your work in the summer and fall easier. Start looking for any signs of desirable native plants. Mark natives with a stake or flag.

Allow the knotweed to grow through early summer. In early- to mid-summer, knock down the knotweed stems in a grid pattern. **Fig. 1** shows how that grid might look on a rectangular patch.

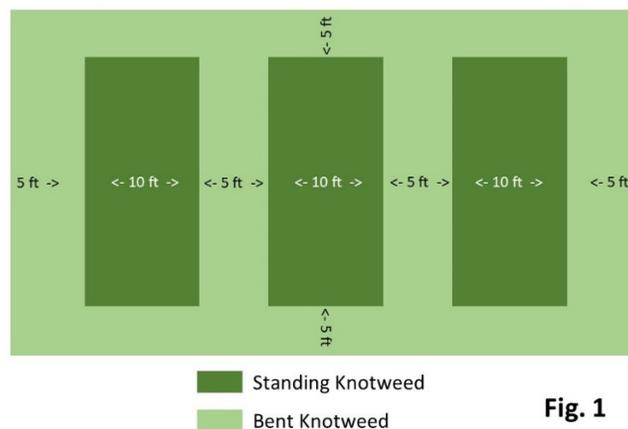
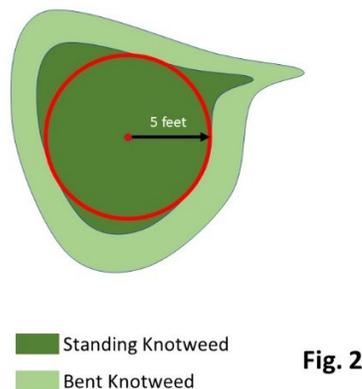


Fig. 2 shows how the patch might look for an irregularly shaped patch:



These areas of knocked-down knotweed will serve as both buffers and pathways for walking when you do the treatment in late summer or fall.

You can knock down the knotweed with a shovel, a rake, or your foot. Try not to break off the stem completely. You want to keep the knotweed growing near the ground in the pathways. Also, create buffers around any desirable plants such as trees.

If you are knocking down knotweed near a water body, be especially careful! Do not let fragments of the knotweed stems enter the water because even small pieces of stem (some even less than an inch long) can grow roots and form new stands.

Treatments: Late Summer or Fall: Do the first treatment at least 3 weeks before a likely killing frost. Follow these steps:

1. Mix the herbicide with our Blue Foaming Agent. The mixture should be about 2-3% active ingredient. Follow our dispenser instructions and the herbicide label.
2. Attach the foam foliar nozzle.
3. Spray the foam on the tall knotweed first.
4. Cover about 10 to 20% of the foliage.
5. Spray the rows of knocked-down knotweed.
6. Spray the outside buffer of knocked-down knotweed last.
7. If you miss any area, let the sprayed foam dry, and then come back to treat missed areas.

Follow Up Treatment: About 14 days later, do a follow-up treatment. Spray any part of the stems or foliage that are still green.

Post Treatment Monitoring and Follow-up: Knotweed is notoriously hard to completely eradicate. The following year, most of the knotweed will be dead. However, be vigilant and locate surviving parts of the infestation. Mark them with a stake or flag. The surviving plants often have misshapen leaves from the effects of the herbicide. Your objective now is to deplete the remaining stores of sugars in the underground rhizome and establish competitive native plants. Do the following:

1. Plant local native species in the areas opened by the treatment. Consult local experts on this.
2. At any time of year, dig out the living knotweed crowns. Collect them in a plastic garbage bag and dispose of them in the trash. Do not compost these.
3. Through early summer, cut the living knotweed stems. These can be dried and composted. Do not store the green stems in moist conditions! They will re-sprout!
4. In late summer or fall, treat the green knotweed stems again per the above procedure.

If you read something here that doesn't jibe with what you have learned from your experience or other sources, please contact us! We greatly appreciate hearing about new techniques and research.

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