

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

### When Knotweed wins...

#### WE LOSE VIEWS AND ACCESS TO RIVERS

The aggressive growth of Japanese knotweed overwhelms our native plants, limiting recreational access and obstructing scenic views.

#### WE LOSE NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMAL HABITAT

These hardy plants and their extensive root structures shade out and permanently displace native vegetation, threatening the diversity of our river ecosystem.

#### WE LOSE PROTECTION FROM EROSION

The shallow root system fails to hold back dirt in times of erosion and flooding, resulting in scoured and unstable stream banks.



**A KNOTWEED MONOCULTURE**

**KNOW  
KNOTWEED**

**SAVE OUR  
STREAMS**

[www.catskillstreams.org](http://www.catskillstreams.org)

**This is a partnership publication by  
the following organizations to encourage  
awareness of best practices for  
Japanese knotweed management:**

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership

National Park Service  
Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River

Lumberland Environmental Council

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

Sullivan Renaissance

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

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**SPREAD THE WORD  
NOT THE WEED!**



**BATTLE THE INVASION OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED  
on our Native Plants, Riverbanks and Views**

## WHAT IS KNOTWEED?

**Japanese Knotweed** (*Fallopia japonica*) is a fast-growing invasive plant that forms dense thickets of tall, arching, bamboo-like stalks. It regenerates at a remarkable rate when pieces of stem or root take hold on bare ground or disturbed sites, dominating large areas in only a few years. This exotic plant was introduced to North America from its native Asia in the 1800s for ornamental use. Easily dispersed by water, soil and people, it quickly invades our river banks, forming thickets that shade out smaller plants, creating a “jungle” where we used to enjoy an inviting stream-side habitat of grasses, flowers, and shrubs.

In late August, the plants produce clusters of lovely white flowers along the upper side of their stems. In winter, only the stalks of Japanese knotweed persist, becoming dry, brittle and turning a rusty hue. Storms and ice floes may wash these away and transport the woody roots downstream, where a new colony will grow to full size the next spring. Places where land clearing, excavation, or erosion leave the soil bare are ready sites for seeds, roots or pieces of stem to lodge and sprout.

# WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

~ DON'T LET KNOTWEED COME BETWEEN YOU AND THE RIVER ~

## DO

**LEARN** to identify Japanese knotweed throughout its growing stages.

**CUT THE WEED** continuously during the growing season. Regular mowing will eventually exhaust knotweed roots. Elevate knotweed cuttings, stems and roots off the ground where they can dry completely before disposal.

**PLANT NATIVE** shrubs and trees where you want to improve the landscape. Exotic plants that are advertised as “vigorous,” “adaptable,” or “deer-proof” often turn out to be unmanageable.

**ACCEPT ONLY CLEAN FILL** that has been properly composted, blended, and screened.

**CONSULT** a state pesticide control specialist before applying herbicides, especially near water bodies.

**ENCOURAGE** neighbors and highway departments to cooperate in preventing the spread of Japanese knotweed.

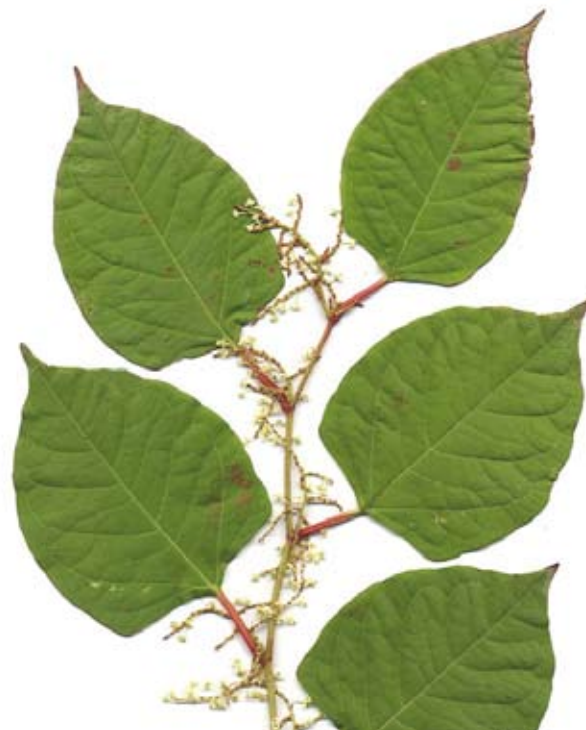
## DO NOT

**THROW CUTTINGS** into a river or stream where knotweed can be carried away and take root at new locations.

**TRANSPORT KNOTWEED** fragments or seeds on clothing or equipment.

**PLANT** Japanese knotweed in new areas for landscaping or screening.

**MOVE FILL** or accept soil that may carry knotweed fragments.



## HEALTHY RIPARIAN HABITAT

**A 2011 PUBLICATION OF THE  
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### EARLY SPRING

Thick, reddish stalks resembling asparagus push up early as soon as frost is out of the ground and before native plants emerge.



### LATE SPRING/ EARLY SUMMER

Hollow stems grow quickly. Broad, heart-shaped leaves unfurl in a zig-zag patterns as the plant spreads underground by a deep and extensive rhizomatous root system.



### LATE SUMMER

Sprays of white flowers bloom from the stems, attracting bees and other insects.



### WINTER

Once the stalks die back in the fall/winter they turn a rusty hue. The woody underground rhizomes remain viable to resprout in the spring.

