

WHISTLER'S 5 WORST WEEDS

#1



Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS: 604-698-8334
SSISC.CA/REPORT

WANTED FOR

- ◆ Damaging infrastructure by growing through concrete and asphalt
- ◆ Causing erosion and sedimentation to streams and fish habitat
- ◆ Spreading in soil via root and stem fragments

LAST SEEN

- ◆ In a small number of yards throughout Whistler
- ◆ Invading a variety of habitats across BC
- ◆ Planted as a garden ornamental, or arriving in contaminated soil



WHISTLER'S 5 WORST WEEDS

Have significant impact on the environment, economy, and human health.

Their numbers are low enough that complete eradication from the Whistler area is still feasible.

#1 Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

Why is it invasive?

Japanese Knotweed is a perennial plant that grows aggressively and spreads quickly. Its root system can grow 10 meters out from the parent plant. Dense thickets of Japanese knotweed shade out native vegetation, reducing biodiversity and degrading wildlife habitat. When the above ground vegetation dies off in the winter, the soil is exposed to erosion and fragments of root break off to float downstream, forming new infestations. Knotweed is able to grow through built structures including concrete, causing significant damage and loss of property value.

How to remove it:

Herbicide treatment is the most effective way to eradicate knotweed. Monitoring and follow-up treatment is required for 3-5 years. Contact SSISC for details and to ensure adherence to the RMOW Pesticide Exemption Bylaw. Cutting and digging are not recommended as plants will re-grow from small fragments of stem or root, plant root reserves are extremely difficult to deplete, and infrequent disturbance can cause a knotweed site to increase in size. All knotweed plant material should be disposed of in a designated invasive species bin or the general waste stream (DO NOT COMPOST).



Flowers are small and creamy white in plume-like clusters along the stem and leaf joints.

Heart-shaped leaves 8-10cm wide, 10-15cm long at maturity, and arranged in zig-zag pattern along stem.



Upright, hollow stems that are segmented like bamboo and dotted with brown or red spots.

Plants grow 1 to 5 meters tall in dense thickets.

New shoots emerge in the spring, can be green or red/purple, and look like asparagus spears.



Young leaves are rolled up and dark green or red in colour.

Do your part to prevent the spread!

- ◆ Learn more about Knotweed at www.knotonmyproperty.com
- ◆ Monitor your property and neighbourhood. Report any new emerging Knotweed shoots to SSISC .
- ◆ Ensure soil and fill material is not contaminated with Knotweed roots or shoots.
- ◆ Do NOT cut, mow, or dig plants. Call SSISC for site specific advice.
- ◆ Clean clothing, animals, tools and machinery before leaving an infestation.
- ◆ Re-vegetate exposed soil with native or non-invasive plants such as Red-osier Dogwood to prevent further invasion.