

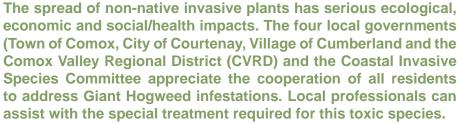
Comox Valley

Invasive Species Alert

Knotweed

Knotweed species

- Japanese (Fallopia japonica)
- Bohemian (F. x Bohemicum)
- Giant Knotweed (F. Sachalinense)
- **Himalayan** (*Polygonum polystachum*)





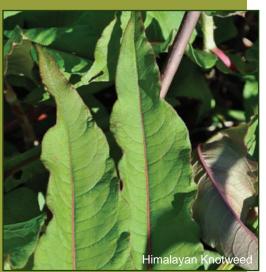
Why is knotweed a problem?

- One of the world's worst invasive species and a top-ten invasive species for eradication in BC
- Dense stands eliminate all other vegetation and are extremely difficult to eradicate
- Ecological impacts include fish and wildlife habitat, biodiversity, bank erosion and clogging waterways
- Economic/Infrastructure impacts include penetration of hard surfaces such as pavement, damaging roads, foundations, other structures and drainage systems
- Extremely vigorous rhizomes; new outbreaks from fragments of rhizome or stems



What does it look like?

- Sometimes called ornamental bamboo; reddish/purple specked hollow stems, 1.5 to 6m tall. Of the 4 species, Himalayan is the smallest and Giant Knotweed the tallest
- Leaves egg to heart-shaped with pointed tip (except Himalayan which is lance-shaped), alternate, stalked; approx.8-10 cm wide/15 cm long (except Giant Knotweed which is twice the size)
- Flowers (August-September) small white/green clusters

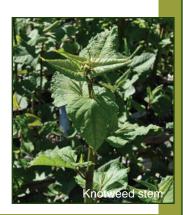


Distribution

- · Native to eastern Asia
- · Outbreaks in many regions in BC

Could be confused with

- Elderberry (Sambucus spp.) with lance-shaped, toothed leaves
- Bamboo species







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Proper Disposal

- It's best to have a professional remove this plant for you. However if you remove knotweed yourself, alert the landfill attendees and they will ensure proper disposal.
- DO NOT COMPOST KNOTWEED!

 Home composting is likely to spread the problem.

Habitat and biology

- Perennial shrub-like herb from rhizomes; Polygonaceae (buckwheat) family
- Found especially in disturbed soil and open habitats; roadsides, watercourses, gardens and drainage systems
- Reproduction primarily by rhizome and some seed production (especially Bohemian); reproduces also from stems fragments and buds in root crowns
- Overwintering rhizomes spread rapidly, extending 15-20m laterally, to a depth of 3m; can remain dormant up to 20 years
- Dispersal: primarily by rhizome and fragments of stem, through human activities and by water

What should you do?

Please report any sightings of this species to the contacts below.

- Spread the word, not the weed: don't purchase, grow or trade knotweed
- Contact: There is a special treatment program for this species in the CVRD. Please contact the Coastal Invasive Species Committee (below) for assistance with treating and disposing of this species
- Avoid: digging and cutting this species as this can cause further spread
- Wash: plant parts and seeds from vehicles, equipment and personal gear before leaving infested sites
- **Dispose**: of any knotweed parts and contaminated soils in the proper manner (below)
- Monitor: knotweed sites to avoid spread and for ongoing treatment until eradicated
- Soil and gravel: use soil and gravel that are not contaminated and follow safe procedures to treat or dispose of contaminated soils and gravel
- **Pesticides:** depending on what jurisdiction you are in, a pesticide permit may be required for treatment.

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