

INVASIVE JAPANESE KNOTWEED IS A BIG PROBLEM FOR MORRIS PLAINS

IS IT IN YOUR YARD?

Excerpts taken from Cornell University Cooperative Extension
From the Morris Plains Beautification Committee

Impacts

Japanese knotweed spreads rapidly. It can grow up to 15 feet tall and spread underground up to 65 feet or more. It forms dense thickets that crowd and shade out native vegetation. What's worse is that it can damage driveways, patios and house foundations! Additionally, the plant reduces species diversity, alters natural ecosystems, and negatively impacts wildlife habitat. Knotweed has branched sprays of small greenish-white flowers from August to September. Once established, populations of knotweed are extremely persistent and hard to eradicate.

Mechanical control

Single young plants can be pulled by hand, but if all the root system isn't removed, it can re-sprout. For larger areas, or in environmentally sensitive areas where herbicides cannot be used, digging it out to remove all the roots after cutting back the standing vegetation can be effective. All parts of the removed plants should be bagged and disposed of properly. Knotweed should not be mown or cut with weed trimmers as the pieces of the plant can be spread and re-sprout.

Chemical control

Chemical controls for Japanese knotweed include applications of glyphosate and triclopyr herbicides to freshly cut stems or to foliage.



