

Japanese knotweed

Repeated Cutting Control Protocol

Control Method

Repeatedly cutting Japanese knotweed stems over several years can control a small colony of a few square metres without necessarily leading to its eradication.

This method consists of cutting stems on a weekly basis. Anyone can do this, but it is time-consuming.

Still, it can reduce the size of a colony in preparation for more drastic measures such as excavation.

Persistence, appropriate disposal of plant waste and patience are required for success.

There are several methods for controlling Japanese knotweed. The choice of method depends on the following factors:

- the size and density of the colony;
- site characteristics (type of soil, slope, proximity to a body of water, etc.);
- available resources (financial, material and human);
- the amount of time available.



▲ Japanese knotweed © Denys Lortie

Warning!

This method may stimulate sprouting of new plants around the colony. Consequently, the area must be monitored to avoid the emergence of new colonies around the perimeter or in your neighbor's yard.



▲ Cut © Comité ZIP Jacques-Cartier



▲ Bagging © CQEE

Equipment

- Pruning shears
- Heavy-duty garbage bags or rolls of polyethylene bags
- Gloves
- Cable ties (e.g., Ty-Raps)

Procedure

- ① When the plant has reached full maturity, use pruning shears to cut off every stem at ground level (below the first node).
- ② Put all of the cut plant matter (stems, rhizome and root fragments, as well as soil containing plant fragments) in sturdy bags and seal tightly with a cable tie. Dispose of the bags with other household garbage or have them sent to a landfill. Do not compost or use green waste collection.
- ③ Repeat cutting every two weeks during the growing season. In subsequent years, start cutting as soon as new stems appear.

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▲ New growth © Comité ZIP des Seigneuries



◀ New growth © CQEE

This method takes several years to reduce the size of a Japanese knotweed colony.

Stopping for any length of time will inevitably lead to the plant's regrowth and a lot of wasted time and effort.

Consistency and diligence are essential.

To further weaken the plant, it is strongly recommended to use a shovel to dig out as much of the root system as possible. For more information, see the "Surface Excavation Control Protocol" information sheet.

Waste Disposal

A single fragment of Japanese knotweed stem, root or rhizome can start a new colony. Therefore, appropriate waste disposal is an essential step in controlling this plant.

- ① Place **ALL** cut plant matter (stems, fragments, roots, etc.) in garbage bags or in pre-cut polyethylene bags that are longer than the stems and secure the bags at one end with a cable tie.
- ② Using cable ties, seal the bags in the same location where the stems were cut.
- ③ Carry out an onsite examination and cleaning of all tools, the soles of your shoes and any other equipment used on the cutting site (e.g., wheelbarrow wheels).
- ④ Dispose of the bags with other household garbage or have them sent to a landfill. **DO NOT** compost Japanese knotweed or use green waste collection.



▲ Bagging © Denys Lortie

Need more information?

Check out the other information sheets, the video on controlling Japanese knotweed, and the Web sites of the Comité ZIP des Seigneuries, the Comité ZIP Jacques-Cartier and the Conseil québécois des espèces exotiques envahissantes.

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