

# Japanese knotweed

## Geomembrane Installation Control Protocol

### Control Method

A geomembrane is installed after above-ground stems have been cut or root systems have been dug out.

This method will significantly limit new plant growth.

Although most of the work can be done in a few days, this method requires regular site inspections and the ongoing elimination of all new growth over several years.

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

### Equipment

- Scissors and a retractable-blade utility knife (e.g., X-ACTO)
- Gloves, rake and hammer
- Cloth-backed tape (e.g., duct tape)
- U-bolts or stones
- Geomembrane: Texel 800 series or 45 mil ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) membrane or Georoute 9



▲ Installed geomembrane © Comité ZIP Jacques-Cartier



▲ Installed geomembrane © Comité ZIP des Seigneuries

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## Geomembrane Installation Control Protocol

### Procedure

- ① Rake the site to clear all debris, remove all rocks, and level the pits and bumps. The surface must be flat and smooth to prevent the geomembrane from tearing or ripping.
- ② Install the geomembrane so that it extends at least two metres beyond the colony's perimeter.
- ③ Lay the geomembrane around trees and shrubs, carefully fastening it with duct tape and U-bolts.
- ④ Anchor the edges of the membrane to the ground with U-bolts or heavy stones, making sure that light cannot filter through the fabric. Avoid perforating the membrane or stretching it too much, otherwise knotweed stems may grow through it.
- ⑤ Leave the geomembrane in place for at least eight years.
- ⑥ Regularly monitor the area to remove any plants growing around the geomembrane. See the "New Growth Monitoring Control Protocol" information sheet to learn more.
- ⑦ When the geomembrane is removed, plant the site with a variety of native species (e.g., Staghorn Sumac, American Black Elderberry, Speckled Alder, Interior Willow or Red Osier Dogwood).



▲ Red osier dogwood © Superior National Forest



▲ Interior willow © Pépinière Boucher



▲ Staghorn sumac © Herman, D.E. USDA

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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