

PROMOTE NATIVE REPLACEMENTS

Plant native species in areas where Knotweed has been growing.

- Conifers may offer the most promise, as knotweed success might be less under dense forest cover.
- Native grasses will also offer desirable alternatives.



Other ideas can be found on:

- Colorado Native Plant Society
www.conps.org
- Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
www.bouldercolorado.gov/openspace

Be sparing with fertilizer, which can give weeds an advantage over native species.

Full list of noxious weeds:

Colorado Department of Agriculture

700 Kipling Street Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
303-239-4100

www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds

Boulder Integrated Pest Management Program

www.BoulderColorado.gov/IPM



Boulder Police

Code Enforcement Unit

Public Safety Building
1805 33rd Street
Boulder, Colorado
80301

Phone: 303-441-3333
www.bouldercolorado.gov

Boulder Police Code Enforcement Unit

GUIDE TO KNOTWEED

*Working with the community to
provide service and safety.*



Dispatch: 303-441-3333

“LIST A” NOXIOUS WEED

KNOTWEED

Japanese, Bohemian, and Giant Knotweeds (*Polygonum cuspidatum*, *P. x bohemicum*, and *P. sachalinense*, respectively) are on Colorado’s noxious weed “A List”, which *requires these weeds to be removed and kept from propagating* on your property. All are similar in appearance and habitat. Bohemian Knotweed is a hybrid of Japanese and Giant Knotweed. Native to eastern Asia, knotweeds were introduced to North America by the late 19th century as ornamentals and landscape screens.



Cutting tends to produce more numerous small shoots, which should also be cut, or try to pull out the roots by grabbing numerous shoots simultaneously.

DO NOT COMPOST!

IDENTIFYING KNOTWEED

The knotweeds are often compared to bamboo, with stems (canes) that are hollow, straight, un-branched, and swollen at the nodes. Once they emerge from root crowns in April, knotweeds grow very quickly, reaching their full height of 4-12 feet by mid-June. Their leaves alternate along the stem, are spade- or heart-shaped, and pointed at the tip. Sprays of small white flowers on 4 inch spikes appear in July and August. The three knotweeds can be distinguished by their height and the size, shape, and texture of their leaves.

CONTROLLING KNOTWEED

Herbicide-free control of any of the knotweeds will have the most success on infestations <1000 square feet and if a combination of the methods described below is used. Any knotweed control program will require a minimum of 3-5 years of commitment because the root system is extensive and re-growth is rapid.



- **Cut or mow** shoots as close to the ground as possible. Repeated over time, this will deplete root reserves. *Repeat cutting every 2-4 weeks* until the first frost.
- **Digging** works best for small, isolated patches. Dig up as much root as possible and watch for sprouts within a 20-foot radius.
- **Cover** with heavy-duty black plastic or geotextile (non-woven or felted) fabric after

cutting, digging, and pulling. Extend fabric at least 7 feet beyond the edge of the area. Weigh down with large rocks or blocks, allowing some slack so new shoots don’t punch through. *Every 2-4 weeks* stomp down re-growth under the cover and cut, dig, or pull out any shoots around the edges. Keep area covered until there is no more growth. Keep in mind that this will kill all plants under the fabric and require replanting after the treatment period.

- **Disposal:** A fragment that is less than ½-inch or any node or joint from a knotweed plant can produce a new plant. For this reason it is imperative to collect all cuttings from a knotweed control project and *not allow any cuttings to go into a waterway*.
- **Continuously monitor** your property. New infestations should be evident by May or June.
- **Where appropriate, grazing** by goats or livestock can control Knotweed about as well as mowing. Be aware that goats will eat desirable vegetation as well.

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