

Eradication:

Knotweeds are spread by tiny plant or rhizome fragments. Learning to identify knotweeds is the best way to prevent infestations. Do not buy or plant knotweeds. If you see a plant you suspect is knotweed growing in the wild, leave it alone, and report it to the County Agricultural Department. If you are maintaining a landscape or clearing brush, and you suspect knotweed is present, do not disturb it. Contact the County Department of Agriculture for help with identification.

Hand pulling or digging is not recommended due to rhizome fragments and rapid regrowth.

Herbicides are the most effective way to eradicate knotweed. Please research which herbicides are best for knotweed eradication and consider the area and any waterways that may be affected when deciding which herbicide to use.



Knotweed spreading over an abandoned property in Orick.
Photo by RCAA

If you find knotweed growing on your property in Del Norte County please contact the county Agriculture Office at 707-464-0878. The county will work with property owners to eradicate Knotweed.

Sources:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden
https://www.bbg.org/article/weed_of_the_month_japanese_knotweed

King County

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/noxious-weeds/identification-control/invasive-knotweed>

Invasive Species Centre

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-plants/giant-knotweed/>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-plants/giant-knotweed/>

EDDMapS. 2026. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>; last accessed August 24, 2026.

Brochure created and produced by
the Del Norte County Department of Agriculture

Knotweeds

Japanese Knotweed
Reynoutria japonica
and

Giant Knotweed
Reynoutria sachalinensis



Japanese knotweed- Photo by Ed Stikvoort, 2020 Saxifraga

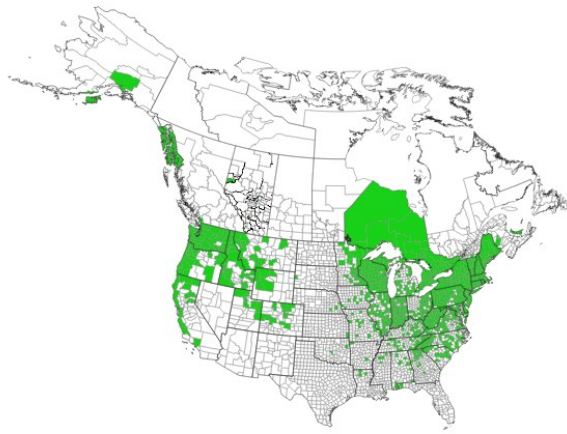
Del Norte County
Agriculture Department
236 Williams Drive
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464-0878

History:

Japanese and giant knotweed are native to East Asia. They were brought to North America in the late 1800's for erosion control and ornamental uses. The two plants have crossbred creating a species called Bohemian knotweed.

Distribution:

Knotweeds have been reported in 43 states in North America and 9 provinces in Canada. Knotweed is considered a menace in Europe, negatively effecting property values.

**Life Cycle:**

Knotweeds primarily reproduce by rhizomes that can extend 65 feet from the parent plant. They can grow from any stem or rhizome fragment left on or in the soil. They can reproduce by seed, but seedling establishment is rare. Knotweeds die back during the Winter months and rapidly grow during the Summer months.

Habitat:

Knotweeds prefer sunny areas. They are often found in landscaped areas, along roadsides, and riparian areas. Knotweeds can grow in most soil types and light ranges but are less robust in shady spaces.

Description:

Giant knotweed is a perennial that grows from rhizomes, creating dense colonies that can reach 12 feet high. The stems are green with red spotting, hollow, bamboo-like, and grow upward without branching. The leaves have heart-shaped bases and taper at the tip. They grow alternately from nodes on the stems, are 8 to 16 inches long, and have smooth edges. The leaf margins and undersides have hairs. The flowers are small, greenish to creamy white, and grow in small clusters at the leaf nodes.



Giant Knotweed– Jennifer Andreas

Japanese knotweed is a shrub like perennial that grows from rhizomes creating dense colonies. The stems are green with red nodes, bamboo-like, hollow, and quickly grow up to 9 feet tall in a season. The leaves are simple, alternate, up to 6 inches long and 4 inches wide, broadly ovate with pointed tips, and have square bases. The flowers grow in clusters at leaf axils on the top portion of the plant and are creamy white in color.



Japanese Knotweed -Minnesota Department of Agriculture



Japanese Knotweed -Minnesota Department of Agriculture