

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

[Reynoutria japonica]

Japanese Knotweed is a perennial herbaceous plant native to Asia. It finds a home at the edges of water bodies, wetlands and ditches as well as along cycling trails.

i

HEIGHT

From 2 to 3 metres.

TIGE

Similar to bamboo, the stem is erect, round, smooth, mottled red and purple, hollow and gnarled.

LEAVES

5 to 12 cm large, 7 to 15 cm long with a square base and pointed tips.

FLOWERS

Whitish, numerous and small, cluster-shaped.

ROOTS

Rhizomes which can extend up to 7 m in length and 2 m in depth.





CONDITIONS WHICH PROMOTE ITS GROWTH

Land disturbed by excavation or landfill or bare soil.



PROPAGATION

A small section of stem or rhizome is sufficient for growth of Japanese Knotweed.



DISPERSAL

By wind, by water (watercourses and runoff water), by soil transport, horticulture as well as by vehicle.



REPERCUSSIONS

Its rhizomes release toxins that prevent other plant growth and its roots can damage infrastructure foundations.

METHODS TO REDUCE ITS PROPAGATION

1. Do not purchase this species in nurseries nor plant it.
2. Control the plant using the following techniques:

SMALL AFFECTED ZONES:

- If possible, dig to 1 metre in depth and 2 metres in diameter around the plants (5 metres for plants which are 2 or more metres high) in order to remove all roots.
- Backfill the area with clean soil free of Japanese Knotweed and seed immediately.

LARGE AFFECTED ZONES:

- For plants over 1 metre in height, cut the plant stems every 2 weeks from May to October.
- Seed the bare soil with rapid growing plants (annuals or perennials) or install sod. Uproot regrowth manually every year.

TRANSPORT AND ELIMINATION

Do not compost any part of the Japanese Knotweed. Plant residues should be placed in a closed plastic bag and deposited in your garbage bin. Should the quantities be too large, bury them under 2 metres of clean soil free of invasive plant species.

REFERENCES

Espace pour la vie (2014). *Carnet horticole et botanique. Renouée japonaise.* <http://espacepouurlavie.ca/renouee-du-japon-veritable-peste-vegetale>

Ville de Québec (2014). *Renouée japonaise.*

Corporation de l'Aménagement de la Rivière L'Assomption (2014). *Les plantes exotiques envahissantes.* http://www.cara.qc.ca/upload/File/cara_plantes_envahissantes.pdf

Nature-Action Québec (2012). http://nature-action.qc.ca/site/sites/default/files/pdf/ressources/renouee_japonaise.pdf

The Town of Brome Lake wishes to extend its gratitude to the City of Sherbrooke for allowing the use and modification of the above content.

This project is financed by the Green Economy Fund as part of the 2013-2020 Implementation Plan on climate change from the Quebec government.