

Know Your Nebraska Noxious Weeds

GIANT KNOTWEED *Fallopia sachalinensis*, including all cultivars and hybrids

Over generations both the rate of introduction and spread of noxious weeds have increased significantly. This change is mainly due to an increase in human travel, expanding commerce through trade, and a lack of knowledge of how weeds are spread. By becoming educated about noxious weeds, you're doing your part to help stop their spread and protect the environment.

What is the threat?

If noxious weeds are left uncontrolled, the Nebraska that we enjoy today will look much different for future generations. Do your part, become educated and help stop the spread of noxious weeds.



How did giant knotweed get here?

[Giant knotweed](#) is native to Asia. It was first introduced as an ornamental in the United States in the late 1800s. Giant knotweed (including all cultivars and hybrids) was declared a noxious weed in Nebraska in 2011.

What does giant knotweed look like?

Giant knotweed is the biggest of the invasive knotweeds. **Stems** reaching 6 – 16 feet tall, hollow, jointed, and swollen at the nodes. **Leaves** are very large and heart shaped. They are often more than a foot long and 2/3 as wide. The **flowers** are white with a greenish tint and form in small clusters and mainly on the upper portions of the stems. Giant knotweed hybridizes with Japanese knotweed to form the [Bohemian knotweed](#) species.

What is the impact of doing nothing?

Due to the lack of natural predators, and their ability to spread by root and stem fragments, giant knotweed species have spread and become widely established throughout North America and Europe. Giant knotweed rapidly colonizes to clog small waterways and displace streamside vegetation, increasing bank erosion and lowering the quality of riparian habitat for fish and wildlife.

Is giant knotweed good for anything?

Giant knotweed has limited value to livestock and white-tailed deer.

How does giant knotweed spread?

Giant knotweed reproduces vegetatively via extensive roots and rhizomes, and stem fragments. It can be moved by waterways, floods, or contaminated soil. Giant knotweed is a prolific seed-producer.

How can I control giant knotweed?

Controlling small infestations is more effective and less expensive.

Options for [giant knotweed control](#) include:

- Mechanical - Hand digging, cutting, or covering. Mechanical methods alone are not likely to kill the plant.
- Herbicide - Spraying and stem injection of herbicides are effective methods of managing giant knotweed.
- Biological - There are currently no approved biological control agents for managing giant knotweed in the United States. Research continues to find host specific biocontrol agents.

What is a Noxious Weed?

A noxious weed is a nonnative plant, which is known to be invasive and can be directly poisonous to man, livestock, and wildlife. Noxious weeds compete with crops, rangeland and pastures reducing yields substantially.

It is the duty of each person who owns or controls land in Nebraska to effectively control noxious weeds on his/her property. For more information about Nebraska's Noxious Weeds contact your local [Weed Control Superintendent](#)