

# Know Your Nebraska Noxious Weeds

## **JAPANESE KNOTWEED** *Fallopia japonica*, 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 Japanese knotweed get here?**

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

### **What does [Japanese knotweed](#) look like?**

**Stems** are stout, cane-like, and reddish-brown. The plants die back at the end of the growing season, but their old reddish-brown canes often persist. **Leaves** are about 6 in. long by 3-4 in. wide, broadly oval to somewhat triangular with a truncated (square) base and a tapered tip. The branched clusters of **flowers** are small, creamy white to greenish white. Japanese knotweed hybridizes with giant 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, Japanese knotweed species have spread and become widely established throughout North America and Europe. Japanese 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 Japanese knotweed good for anything?**

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

### **How does Japanese knotweed spread?**

Japanese knotweed reproduces mainly vegetatively via extensive roots and rhizomes, and stem fragments. It can be moved by waterways, floods, or contaminated soil. Japanese knotweed can also germinate from seed, although this is less common.

### **How can I control Japanese knotweed?**

Controlling small infestations is more effective and less expensive.

Options for [Japanese 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 Japanese knotweed.
- Biological - There are currently no approved biological control agents for managing Japanese 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](#)*