

Hybrid Knotweed

Native range: Eastern Asia

Stem: Up to 6-10 feet tall. Green, with red or purple specks. Forms dense cane-like clumps.

Leaves: Green, shield or heart-shaped, with a flat base. Up to 5 inches long.

Flowers: Creamy clusters borne on the tips of most stems. Which show in August – October.

Roots: Consist of rhizomes, flowers are yellow, when cut. The rhizome system can reach 23 feet from the parent plant and can be up to 10 feet deep.

New plants: New plants can grow from a piece of rhizome the size of a little finger nail. The crown, located at the base of the stem will also produce new plants.



For over 60 years, the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District (NPSWCD) has maintained a firm commitment to, and solid level of support for, the conservation, wise use and management of Nez Perce County's natural resources.

Today, the NPSWCD continues to meet the needs of landowners and land users throughout the area. While providing the public with a formal channel for cooperation, and assisting county, state and federal agencies in practicing resource conservation, the NPSWCD routinely offers information and technical guidance to individuals with land or resource needs and concerns.

Additional Resources:

- www.ecy.wa.gov
- www.fs.fed.us

The NPSWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of sex, color, national origin, religion, color, and age.



Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District



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Hybrid Knotweed: An Invasive Plant

Please contact the NPSWCD if you have Hybrid Knotweed on your property or if you know of any locations where this plant is growing.

Tel: 208-843-2931

► Description and Variation

Hybrid Knotweed is a herbaceous perennial species. It has reddish-brown, branched stems that can grow to be 6-10 feet tall. It often looks like a shrub. The leaves are generally 4-6 inches long and oval with an abrupt point. In late summer the whitish flowers bloom. The fruits are approximately 1/8 inch long and are brown, shiny, triangular achenes. The hollow stems with thickened nodes resemble bamboo shoots. In late fall the stem dies back, but underground stems, called rhizomes, are dormant throughout the winter. In the early spring the rhizomes produce new rapid growing shoots.



History

Hybrid Knotweed is native to Asia and was introduced to the United States as an ornamental hedge and for erosion control.

Impacts

Knotweed is a concern for many reasons. One is that it grows along streams competing with native trees and shrubs. Once knotweed establishes, it competes with the native vegetation, limiting its growth and sometimes removing the native vegetation. Knotweed spreads quickly, degrading fish habitat and leaving stream banks prone to erosion. Trees and shrubs are a critical component of fish habitat as they provide shade to cool stream temperatures, branches for hiding cover, and leaves for insects which are the fish's food source.



Control

Knotweed can be very difficult to control. There are many different methods for controlling Knotweed. Spraying is not an effective long-term control method. Stem injection is where you inject the stem of a plant with herbicides labeled for injection. This method is very effective but time consuming. For more information on stem injection go to: www.jkinjectiontool.com.



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