



TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

Environmental Commission

COUNTY OF MORRIS

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Control of Japanese Knotweed

Japanese knotweed is an invasive plant that can quickly crowd out native species. (Of course, deer do not eat it.) Ecologists recommend aggressive measures to eradicate the plants.

The methods described below represent a composite of information obtained through communication with Dr. Michael Horne (Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge), Dr. Emile DeVito (NJ Conservation Fund), Robert Jennings (Morris County Parks) and internet sources. Two of these sources also recommended Craig Bitler (GSNWR) as a local expert on eradication of this plant. A good internet site for identification (see photos below) is:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pocu.1>



Eradication is typically a two- to three-year process. Spraying herbicide onto the full grown plants seems to be almost totally ineffective. The following procedures are recommended:

- Cut back the plants to a few inches above the ground in May or June during peak growing season. It is important to collect all of the cut stems, back them in plastic, and throw them out in the trash. The cut stems are capable of establishing new sprouts.
- The plants will very quickly begin to sprout and re-grow after cutting, at which time they should be sprayed with Roundup[®] or a similar herbicide.
- Some recommend a second spraying in July.
- In September, near the end of the growing season, cut back any remaining stems and discard in the trash.
- In May of the following year, spray any new growth with Roundup[®] and, if necessary, again in July.

- Re-seed the site with native grass mixes that are tolerant to drought and poor soils.
- Watch the site for re-growth of Japanese knotweed over the next few years. The plant can propagate from seeds and from the root system, so it tends to be rather tenacious.

A word of caution about Roundup[®]: It is a preferred herbicide because it breaks down quickly into non-harmful substances and has almost no residual 'poisoning' effect on the soil. However, it has been shown to have harmful effects on aquatic animals when placed directly into streams or ponds—use with great care in areas near open water. And, as always, follow all of the precautions on the label for your own personal safety.