

Fact Sheet: Control of Invasive Knotweeds in CRD Regional Parks

Invasive knotweeds are highly aggressive plants that spread primarily by underground rhizomes (lateral stems), have extremely strong and deep root systems, and displace native species by forming thickets in moist to wet areas.

These knotweeds are serious threats to biodiversity, particularly in shoreline and riparian areas. They are listed as noxious weeds under the *BC Weed Control Act* and recognized as a high priority for control across the province.

Invasive knotweed species in BC are: Giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*), Bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemica*).

Where Knotweeds are Found

Knotweeds are at the early stages of invasion in the CRD. They are present at nine known sites in CRD regional parks and trails: adjacent to the Lochside Regional Trail on the bank of Blenkinsop Creek near Swan Lake in Saanich; along the Galloping Goose Regional Trail near Ocean Boulevard and Old Island Highway in Colwood; along the Galloping Goose near Meota Drive and near Cooper Cove in Sooke; along the Galloping Goose near Glen Lake in Langford; in the Jordan River campground; and at 3 other locations in the Jordan River lands.

How Knotweeds are Being Treated

CRD Regional Parks uses two approaches to control knotweeds. At some sites stems are cut and root masses removed by hand. At other sites herbicide is injected directly into knotweed stems.

CRD Regional Parks Policy on Herbicides

The CRD is committed to protecting the ecological integrity of ecosystems within parks. Regional Parks' policy is to avoid the use of pesticides in general, and chemicals are never used for cosmetic purposes. However, herbicide is one of the tools available for control of invasive species. Herbicide is only used in regional parks and



Giant Knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)

trails if other strategies are ineffective, and only by direct application.

Monitoring, Learning and Follow-up

The sites will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment. Repeat treatments will likely be required for several years. These sites will be used as learning opportunities for developing long term strategies for invasive knotweed control. If new sites are discovered, they will be assessed to develop the most appropriate, safe, and effective techniques for control.

Collaboration with Other Agencies

CRD Regional Parks collaborates on invasive species management as a member of the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP). CRISP members include most local governments in the region, major land managers, provincial agencies and others. These agencies regard knotweeds as high priority invasive species and recommend rapid action to prevent them from becoming established in the district.

How the Public Can Help

The public is encouraged to report locations of knotweed to CRISP, and to control and avoid planting it on their own property. For information or to report an occurrence visit www.coastalisc.com/regional-committees/crisp.



Making a difference...together

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