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# THE KNOTWEED COMPLEX

## *Provincial Overview*



FLNR

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## OVERVIEW

- What Is The Big Deal?
- Why Haven't We Solved the Problem?
- Knotweed Status in B.C.
  - Regulation
  - Current vs Potential Range
  - Containment Lines





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## WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL?

**Significant Environmental Impacts**

**Safety and Infrastructure**

**Reduced property values**

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## WHY HAVEN'T WE SOLVED THE KNOTWEED PROBLEM?

- Reproduces by rhizome, stem/root fragments, sometimes seed
- Spread by water currents, mowing, grading, soil movement, intentional plantings
- Roots can grow up to 3-7m down and 20m lateral
- Often grows in close proximity to water
- Provincially regulated Pesticide Free Zones (PFZs)
- No systemic aquatic herbicides registered for use in CAN



## REGULATORY STATUS IN B.C.

- Regulated Provincial Noxious Weed
  - Land occupiers required to prevent the spread of designated noxious weeds from their premises province-wide





## B.C. CONTAINMENT LINE

- Land managers encouraged to control knotweed wherever possible
- Priority sites:
  - Satellite populations in previously un-impacted watersheds and at risk of spread into riparian areas
  - Sites subject to soil disturbance and rhizome spread (headwaters, flood zones, roadsides, construction areas)
  - Sites in close proximity to infrastructure





**CURRENTLY KNOWN  
JAPANESE KNOTWEED  
LOCATIONS IN B.C.  
AND THEIR  
POTENTIAL RANGE**





**CURRENTLY KNOWN  
BOHEMIAN KNOTWEED  
LOCATIONS IN B.C.  
AND THEIR  
POTENTIAL RANGE**



**CURRENTLY KNOWN  
HIMALAYAN KNOTWEED  
LOCATIONS IN B.C.  
AND THEIR  
POTENTIAL RANGE**





# WHAT IS THE PROVINCE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Best Management Practices for Crown Land (in draft)
- Herbicide Guidelines for Treatment of Knotweed (2016)  
<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/management.htm>
- Monitoring Schedule



# Years Post-"NO WEEDS FOUND"												
Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	13	15	20
Bohemian knotweed	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y		Y	Y
Giant knotweed	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y		Y	Y
Japanese knotweed	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y		Y	Y
Himalayan knotweed	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y		Y	Y



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## WHAT IS THE PROVINCE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Targeted surveys and stakeholder education in newly impacted watersheds/areas
- First Nations education and awareness/demonstration trials
- Supporting new aquatic herbicide registrations
- Supporting label revisions to re: stem injection





## WHAT IS THE PROVINCE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Provincial pesticide use permits
- Girdling trials to contain root material and slow surface growth

**Pre-Treatment**



**Post-Treatment Day 1**



**Post-Treatment Day 134**





## WHAT IS THE PROVINCE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Two agents under development for BC knotweeds : sap sucker psyllid and fungal leafspot



*Sap sucking psyllid, CABI*



*fungal leafspot Mycospharella sp., CABI*



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## WHAT IS THE PROVINCE DOING ABOUT IT?

- **Crown Land Treatments**
- **Training for staff and contractors**
- **Construction protocols**





## Network Rail faces compensation bill worth millions after residents win landmark court ruling over damage caused by Japanese knotweed

- Neighbours Robin Waistell and Stephen Williams took on the rail giant
- They successfully argued that the knotweed roots encroached on their homes
- Network Rail did nothing to treat the aggressive knotweed for four years

By TOM BEDFORD and BEN ELLERY FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY  
PUBLISHED: 22:00 GMT, 4 February 2017 | UPDATED: 15:00 GMT, 5 February 2017



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Network Rail is facing compensation claims that could total tens of millions of pounds after a landmark court ruling on damage caused to homes by Japanese knotweed growing on its land.

Neighbours Robin Waistell and Stephen Williams took on the rail giant after the plant, growing on a railway embankment next to their bungalows, spread into the foundations of their homes. The pair saw the value of their properties almost halved because of the invasion.

The plant's roots can force their way through brick and concrete, and it is difficult

After a four-day hearing at Cardiff County Court, Recorder Andrew Grubb ruled in their favour and ordered the Government body to pay **£4,320** to each claimant to treat the knotweed. And in what is being seen as a key test case, he also awarded them **£10,000** each in compensation for the fall in value of their homes. **Mr Waistell's bungalow, which was previously worth £135,000, is now valued at £69,000.**

Crucially, the judge stressed that, if Network Rail failed to get rid of the knotweed, Mr Waistell and Mr Williams could claim for the full drop in the value of their homes.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4191944/Network-Rail-faces-huge-claims-Japanese-knotweed.html#ixzz4YAqqcs5l>



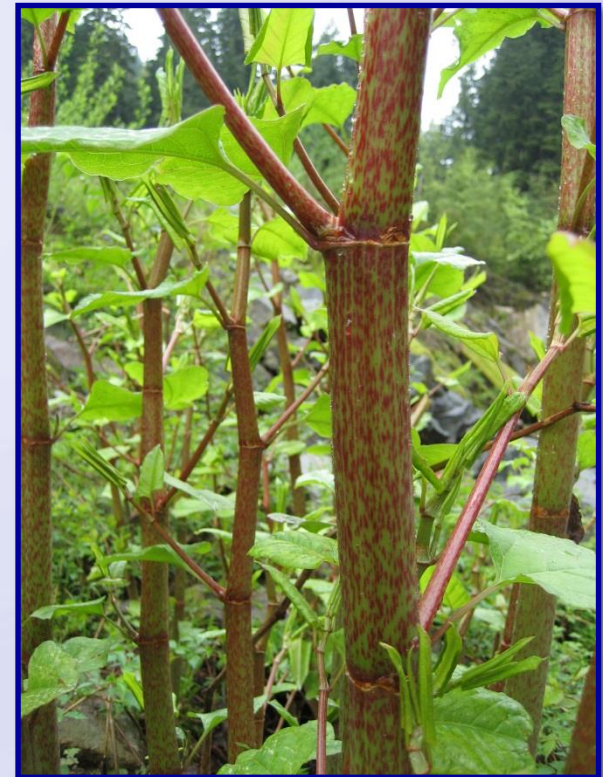


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## QUESTIONS?

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[www.Gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.Gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

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