

## Invasive Plant Fact Sheet #2

### Best Management Practices for KNOTWEED

It is the goal of the NH Department of Transportation to avoid spreading invasive plants to new sites during maintenance and construction activities. This fact sheet describes Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can prevent the spread of knotweed. Please note that these BMPs alone will not result in the eradication of this plant. The Department's *Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants* contains additional information on knotweed and other invasive plants. Please contact the NHDOT Bureau of Environment for more information (271-3226) or visit [www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/environment/units/technicalservices/invasivespecies](http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/environment/units/technicalservices/invasivespecies).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Knotweed can sprout from fragments of stem and root as small as ½" in length.

#### EXCAVATION

- When excavating in areas containing knotweed, be aware that knotweed rhizomes (underground stems) may extend 30 feet beyond visible stems and roots can reach depths of 10 feet.
- Material excavated from sites containing knotweed must be disposed of appropriately (see below). Transported material must be covered.

#### MOWING

- Avoid mowing knotweed if it is not causing safety concerns. If knotweed must be cut, use of hand tools is preferred over mowing. (See *Invasive Plant Fact Sheet #1: Best Management Practices for MOWING*)

#### EQUIPMENT

- Do not locate staging areas or material stockpiles in areas containing knotweed.
- When working in areas containing knotweed, equipment must be cleaned prior to moving to non-infested sites. This can be done with a brush or broom at the site of infestation. Water should not be used unless a portable wash station is utilized.
- If equipment will be used in areas containing knotweed but excavation will not occur, plants must be cut at the soil surface with hand tools and disposed of appropriately (see below). Transported plant material must be covered.

#### DISPOSAL

- Excavated material that contains knotweed can be disposed of as follows:
  - Reuse material at the site of infestation;
  - Bury material at least 5 feet below grade;
  - Stockpile material on an impervious surface (plastic or pavement) until plant material is non-viable. For fastest results, material should be spread in a thin layer and root material should be broken into smaller pieces. Root material is non-viable when pieces are dried or rotted all the way through.
- Cut stems can be disposed of as follows:
  - Leave intact stems at the site of infestation if there is no running water nearby;
  - Bag stems in heavy-duty trash bags and allow to rot or dry in the bags prior to disposal;
  - Burn stems off-site;
  - Bury stems at least 5 feet below grade;
  - Stockpile stems off-site on an impervious surface until stems are non-viable. Stems are non-viable when dry and brittle or partially decomposed and slimy.



Stem and leaves



Dead stems (visible all year)



Typical roadside patch