

### Japanese Knotweed in Vermont

The Japanese Knotweed is one of the most invasive plants in the world. The state of Vermont advises that, even though the plant has some benefits medicinally, it should be removed. The plant causes structural damage, and it invades native Vermont species of plants. One benefit of the Japanese Knotweed is that it provides the nutrition and vitamins used to make medicine. However, its harmful effects are problematic for Vermont's ecosystem.

Japanese Knotweed is most known for the damage it can cause to structures. This includes pipes, concrete, or even parts of houses. When this happens it affects the prices of houses and properties negatively. This plant has a tall, bamboo-like stalk built for strength and durability. It is difficult to remove. It is damaging to the materials of structures. This is one of the reasons Vermont recommends its removal.

Once Japanese Knotweed has entered an area, it will spread very quickly. It grows into colonies and spreads throughout the properties making it invasive to the native plants. It has several ways to kill the native species of the area. One of the most common ways is releasing harmful chemicals from its rhizome. This chemical intoxicates the plants which can kill them. Japanese Knotweed can spread from its rhizomes or pieces of it being dispersed by water flow. Another common way is that Japanese Knotweed spreads and extends its stems and leaves, it

blocks sunlight or just completely overthrows the other species in the area, forcing them out. Its invasive growth is a disadvantage worldwide.

The Japanese Knotweed does have one benefit which is important. This plant is used to make medicine for all sorts of diseases. Some include gingivitis or bronchitis. It can even help with a sore throat. It is very high in nutritional value. It includes vitamins like Vitamin A, C, zinc, and potassium. Most people who have Japanese Knotweed on their property most likely won't harvest it so it is clear that the disadvantages outweigh the benefits.

To conclude, Japanese Knotweed is harmful to other species in Vermont. Vermont recommends that it should be removed immediately so it does not spread. The ratio of its benefits to disadvantages is one to three. The benefits do not outweigh the disadvantages. Therefore, Japanese Knotweed is not a welcome guest.

