WHAT IS KNOTWEED?

Knotweeds are native to Central and Eastern Asia, but were brought to the U.S as ornamentals. There are several varieties of invasive knotweed in Oregon. Himalayan, Japanese, Bohemian and Giant knotweeds are all found in Coos County. These fast growing bamboo-like plants are capable of reaching 15 to 20 feet tall. Once established the plant’s massive underground creeping rhizomes are VERY difficult to destroy.

WHY IS KNOTWEED A PROBLEM?

Knotweeds aggressively take over stream banks, gravel bars and floodplains. Replacing available areas for native vegetation to grow. Researchers have found chemicals within knotweed leaf litter inhibits growth of other plants near knotweed infestations. Knotweed natural winter dieback creates expanses of river bank exposed to erosion from winter/spring storm events.
Founded in 1994, the mission of the Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA) is to work collaboratively with landowners and community members to develop and implement voluntary watershed restoration, enhancement, and engagement activities that promote healthy and resilient ecosystems and economies in the Coquille watershed. We implement three programs at the organization to achieve our mission: Restoration, Monitoring, and Education and Outreach. Our work includes facilitating communication between landowners, citizens, civic organizations, private foundations and government agencies to streamline the enhancement and restoration of aquatic and wildlife resources in the Coquille watershed. Through stream and riparian restoration projects, ecological monitoring, and educational programming, we achieve our mission and enhance water quality, working forests and ranches, and stream habitat in the Coquille watershed.

WHERE IS KNOTWEED IN THE COQUILLE WATERSHED?

Knotweed is currently known in North Fork, Middle Fork, lower South Fork and the main stem of the Coquille River, Coos County, OR. Japanese is common but giant is the dominant species.

HOW CAN YOU CONTROL KNOTWEED?

Research has consistently shown that only systemic herbicides are cost effective at controlling or greatly reducing knotweed. If treating with herbicides please check the label and use only aquatic and mammal safe herbicides near water. Methods such as cutting and mowing, can spread fragments or trigger the plant’s defenses to grow thicker and wider. Making the situation worse!

Countless landowners tell us of battling knotweed for years, only to learn they that mowing has created more problems. Digging up knotweed roots, can spread the plant elsewhere when transported in fill dirt. Broken vegetative stems that are often transported via river water can create new populations as well.

The good news is that with the cooperation of everyone, we can control the spread and eliminate the threat of invasive knotweeds from our County! For more information on controlling knotweed or other noxious weed questions contact: Coquille Watershed Association at 541-396-2541 or email Goldie Warncke Noxious Weed Program Manager @ gwarncke@coquillewatershed.org

HIMALAYAN KNOTWEED

This knotweed has elongated leaves with white blooms between July and October.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Japanese knotweed can grow from 4 to 10 feet, the leaves are heart shaped and has greenish white white blooms that flowers between July and October.

BOHEMIAN KNOTWEED

One of the MOST Common invasive knotweeds is the hybrid between Japanese and giant. This plant species grows mostly by stem and root fragments.

GIANT KNOTWEED

Giant knotweed is the largest of the knotweed species. It can grow over 12 feet tall and has extremely huge leaves.