

## Guidance Regarding Planned Construction and Knotweed

Japanese and Bohemian knotweed is an invasive plant that is unfortunately quite common on properties on the North Island. This plant has a very aggressive root system that can cause significant damage to infrastructure such as pavement, foundations, piping, etc. Knotweed must be carefully managed as trying to dig it up will actually trigger further spreading of the plant. Cutting it down can also be hazardous as the cuttings if in contact with ground can start a new plant. The biggest potential risk financially is the precedent set by lending institutions in the United Kingdom where mortgages have become difficult to get for properties with knotweed.



The Regional District of Mount Waddington (RDMW) has been supervising the treatment of knotweed in unincorporated communities and places a high priority in controlling this invasive species to eliminate its spread. The following guidance document has been developed to advise property owners contemplating development on their land in how to manage for knotweed.

### Step 1: Assess Property for Knotweed

Knotweed, while originally from Asia, has become quite common in the North Island and can be found on developed and undeveloped land. Searching the internet will result in an abundance of resources that will help in the identification of the plant. For those who want a competent third party to do the assessment, most professional foresters or biologists can provide expert knowledge in assessing for knotweed. Contact the RDMW office for assistance if needed.



Figure 1

Key Identifiers of Knotweed:

- Heart shaped leaves (Figure 1)
- Stalks resemble bamboo (Figure 2)

### Step 2: Treat Knotweed

Knotweed is a very persistent invasive plant with the recommended treatment being repeated applications of glyphosate herbicide. Trying to cut or dig it out in the vast majority of cases will result in the knotweed spreading out further. Because of the health and environmental concerns associated with herbicide usage, it should be applied only by trained personnel. The RDMW has organized an annual knotweed treatment program for



Figure 2

most unincorporated communities on the North Island, many of which will treat private lands subject to the permission of the property owner. The workers applying the glyphosate have been trained and passed certification exams to ensure safe and responsible usage. Experience shows that even with the use of glyphosate, it will likely take many treatments to fully eradicate a knotweed patch and even when it no longer appears, the site will need to be monitored. If you wish to participate in the program, please fill in the form below and submit it to the RDMW office.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON  
RDMW Office – 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill

**Knotweed Control Consent Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Strategic Natural Resource Consultants (SNRC) have my permission to enter the property at the address identified above, for the purpose of removal of a Knotweed infestation including the injection of herbicide and, if necessary, a re-inspection of the property.

**Consent**

I \_\_\_\_\_, authorize SNRC and its inspectors permission to enter my property.  
(Name of household)

If I am unable to be present for the inspection or re-inspection, I have given \_\_\_\_\_ permission to let SNRC onto my property to perform the inspection or re-inspection.  
(Name of representative)

Any questions related to the inspection should be directed to the SNRC Manager overseeing the invasive species program for the Regional District of Mount Waddington (250) 956-2260.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of household)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For any further questions related to knotweed management, please contact the Manager of Operations at (250) 956-3301.