



IMPRESS THE CHESS JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Please help us to wipe out this weed in Chesham!



Why Japanese Knotweed is a problem weed:

Knotweed was introduced to Britain in the mid-19th century, but escaped from gardens into the wild. Knotweed grows aggressively and can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. The plant will quickly dominate an area, forming large stands and wiping out the natural vegetation. It can also increase flooding risks, cause structural damage and reduce land values.

Knotweed mainly reproduces from its stems and rhizomes. A rhizome fragment smaller than a one-pence piece can produce a new plant, making it very difficult to control. The crown can survive drying and composting to produce new plants. Knotweed is easily spread via rivers and by moving soil contaminated with knotweed material.

KNOTWEED AND THE LAW

The responsibility for the control of knotweed usually rests with the landowner or tenant of the land.

It is against the law to plant Japanese knotweed or cause it to grow in the wild.

HOW TO CONTROL IT

Knotweed will take time to control and care must be taken to use a method which ensures that fragments of stem or rhizome are not produced which would enable the plant to spread.

Herbicides, including glyphosate, can be used for control during the growing season. You must gain permission from the Environment Agency (General Enquiries line: 08708 506 506) before using herbicides near a watercourse, e.g. a river. When using herbicides, always follow the manufacturer's instructions. If in doubt, use a specialist contractor.

Grazing of shoots by horses, sheep and goats keeps plants in check, providing previous dead growth is removed, but will not offer long-term control.

Cutting can only be done with **extreme care** to prevent stem fragments being spread. Cut carefully with a hand scythe every 2 to 4 weeks. **Do not flail mow.**

Pulling – uproot stems by pulling from the base (June onwards).

DISPOSAL

Do not compost, chip or mulch knotweed. Cut or pulled plant material may be **burnt** on site. Contact the Environmental Health Department at Chiltern District Council (01494 729000) for advice regarding bonfire legislation.

Knotweed waste can be disposed of off-site, but requires a waste licence. The Household Waste and Recycling Centre on Latimer Road **does not** accept knotweed.

Fly-tipping green waste is the main cause of the spread of knotweed.

For further advice, contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506.

For more information on Impress the Chess, contact the Town Hall on 01494 774842.