

Japanese Knotweed is the most widespread and most visible invasive species in Meredith.



It's most often found along roadsides, but can appear anywhere.



It can be identified by its bamboo-like appearance and its very rapid growth.



New growth emerges in spring and produces hollow stems with heart-shaped leaves.
When it's small it can be pulled by hand, being careful to completely remove all the roots.



In late summer it puts out many small white flowers.



If not removed, the plants will propagate rapidly and completely take over a large area, crowding out all other plants. Note that knotweed will root from small broken-off pieces of the plant so *don't mow it* or leave cut or broken remnants anywhere they may take root.

There are several methods of eradication; two are described below: the Cut and Cover method, and the Cut and Paint with herbicide method.

More information on invasive species including insects, animals, and aquatic plants can be found at the [UNH Extension Service website here](#).

Cut and Paint with Herbicide:

Detailed information on this method can be found [here](#). Below is a simple checklist for this approach:

Cut and Paint with Herbicide Checklist:

- Identify stands and establish exclusion zone
- Schedule application for Aug–Sept
- Cut stems to 2–4 inches above ground
- Apply herbicide **within 30 seconds** of cutting
- Use glyphosate 20–25% solution or triclopyr per label
- Paint inside hollow stems (wet but not overflowing)
- Treat all stems in the stand
- Repeat annually for any regrowth
- Continue until no regrowth for 2 full seasons

Cut and Cover:

[Detailed information on this method can be found here](#). Below is a simple checklist for this approach:

Cut and Cover Checklist:

- Identify all knotweed stands
- Mark boundaries + 6 ft buffer
- Establish exclusion zone (no mowing, soil movement, vehicles)
- First cut (May–June): Stems cut to ground level
- All cut material removed and contained
- Install heavy black plastic/geomembrane
- Overlap seams by 2 ft
- Secure with weights/stakes, no light gaps
- Inspect monthly for breaches
- Cut any edge regrowth
- Maintain cover 3–5 years
- After 2 years with no regrowth, remove cover
- Replant area with native vegetation
- Monitor annually for recurrence

