

■ Japanese Knotweed – Complete Control Packet

This packet includes:

- Removal & Control Methods
- Quick Removal Checklist
- Monthly & Yearly Treatment Schedule

Section 1: Removal & Control Methods

- **Mechanical Methods:**
 - Cutting/Mowing: Only effective when combined with herbicides or smothering. Leave stems to dry on-site.
 - Hand Pulling/Digging: Best for small, new patches. Must remove all roots and destroy plant material.
 - Smothering: Cut in June, cover with mulch and heavy plastic/tarp for 5 years.
- **Chemical Methods:**
 - Use glyphosate (2.5% foliar spray + surfactant).
 - Best timing: After flowering (Sept–Nov).
 - Often requires 3–5 years of follow-up treatments.
- **Biological Methods:** None available yet (research ongoing).
- **Disposal:**
 - Safe: Burn, bury 5+ ft deep, or send to landfill.
 - Do NOT compost live crowns/rhizomes or dump in wetlands.
 - Dry, dead stalks can be composted safely.

Section 2: Quick Removal Guide (Checklist)

- **Step 1: Identify & Plan** – Confirm plant, mark 20 ft buffer zone.
- **Step 2: Choose Control Method:**
 - Option A – Smothering: Cut in June, dry stems, cover with mulch + tarp for 5 years.
 - Option B – Herbicide: Cut in June, spray regrowth Sept–Nov with glyphosate.
 - Option C – Small Patches: Hand pull or dig up roots completely.
- **Step 3: Disposal** – Burn, bury, or landfill. Never compost live roots or dump in wetlands.
- **Step 4: Monitor & Repeat** – Inspect site regularly, retreat as needed for several years.

Section 3: Monthly & Yearly Treatment Schedule

Month	Recommended Actions
March–April	Survey site for regrowth. Mark infestations. Do not disturb soil yet.
May	Allow growth to build energy reserves (important for weakening plant).

June	Cut stems at ground level. Begin smothering process or prep for herbicide regrowth.
July	Monitor regrowth. Re-cut if needed. Ensure smothering tarps remain sealed.
August	Continue monitoring. No herbicide yet (pollinators active).
September–November	Apply herbicide (glyphosate) after flowering when nutrients return to roots.
December–February	Minimal activity. Plan next year's monitoring and treatment.

■ Yearly Cycle Notes

- Year 1: Focus on cutting in June and applying herbicide/smothering in fall.
- Year 2–3: Repeat cycle. Expect reduced density but continued regrowth.
- Year 4–5: Monitor for isolated shoots. Spot-treat as needed.
- Long-term: Inspect site annually; knotweed can remain dormant for years.