



Yachats Weed of the Month - January

Knotweeds (various) (*Fallopia species*)

The three knotweed species found in our area are Himalayan knotweed, Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed. In addition, Japanese knotweed can form viable hybrids with other knotweed species.

Impact: Knotweeds form dense clumps that completely crowd out all other vegetation. Take a look at the stand of Himalayan knotweed on the east side of Highway 101 opposite Aqua Vista loop. Or, on the way to Florence, the huge stand of knotweed that has choked Big Creek. Native vegetation stands no chance against untreated knotweed, and wildlife is correspondingly impacted. Himalayan knotweed may be mildly toxic to livestock.

Identification: Knotweed is recognizable by its bamboo-like stems, the attractive small white flowers appearing from August onward, and the uniform appearance of established colonies. The individual knotweed species can be identified by their characteristic leaf shapes. The picture shows Himalayan knotweed on the left, Japanese knotweed on the right.



Management: Knotweed is probably more difficult to eradicate than any of our other major invasive weeds. Manual removal or brush cutting tends to make the plants multiply and spread. Short of large scale soil excavation to a depth of 3 ft (which has been done in the UK), the only practical way of treating large knotweed populations is to use herbicides. Currently, with Yachats designated as a “no spray” zone, several large knotweed stands in our city are spreading out of control. Small populations may be controlled by repeatedly digging out the plants with their rhizomes as they appear throughout the growing season, but this remedy requires extreme vigilance otherwise the plant comes back with a vengeance.

Contact information: Call Wally at 541 547 5474 if you have any questions. For Yachats’ invasive plants web page, go to www.yachats.info/YIPS

“Yachats Weed of the Month” is an informational service of the Yachats Trails Committee and YIPS! - the Yachats Invasive Plants Subcommittee.