

Invasive Knotweed, *Polygonum* or *Fallopia* spp., goes by many common names, including fleecflower, crimson beauty, and Mexican Bamboo because of its hollow stems. It was brought here in the mid 1800s as an attractive ornamental. But because it spreads by cuttings, roots or rhizomes and seeds, Knotweed has been declared an invasive plant in many states. It is taking over riverbanks, hillsides, roadsides and other disturbed soils, crowding out native species and disrupting natural ecosystems.

This 3-step organic control process, followed over 3 years, can knock back the Knotweed while you reintroduce native plants and reestablish natural ecosystems.

Nix the Knotweed!



1. Cut plant at base
2. Dry out/kill off live stem cuttings*
3. Plant or reseed native plants!

Do these 3 steps 3 times each summer to starve back the knotweed plants. Cut in May/June, July and mid-August, before nutrients from leaves are sent back to the roots for next year's growth.

Watch to see if native seeds sprout after Knotweed cuttings. Reseed and replant, starting in 2nd year. Continue to monitor and cut knotweed sprouts in future years, too.

These other methods DON'T control Knotweed, they only encourage it to sprout and spread:



Weed whacking & mowing create cuttings that grow



Pulled roots break & spread



Chemicals can damage other plants & aquatic species

*Please do not throw live cuttings into leaf, compost or wood piles or toss into open space. Check with your town and state on permits & invasive plants disposal laws. Solarize, bag and dispose in incinerated trash or burn, as permitted.

See 10 years of progress in Pine Grove – [NixtheKnotweed facebook page](#) – Go to cipwg.uconn.edu for CT invasive plant info

Patience & Persistence Pay Off!

Our method is Carbohydrate Deprivation. The three once-a-month cuttings can be timed around your life and other gardening activities.*



Mid-April 2021 sprouts, after plant was cut back twice in 2020.



Make clean cuts close to root ball, but don't attempt to dig it out.
Mid-May cutting 2021



If your site has been mowed or weed whacked, expect to find lots of small plants and sprouts. Nix them!



Last year's dried stems do not need to be bagged and taken away. They will not re-sprout. But cutting this year's growth is easier if these dead stems are moved aside. May 2021.



Singular-bladed brush cutter makes a clean cut on large stems. Do NOT weed whack! July 2020



If you miss June or July cuttings, do the August cut!

*All photos and times here are based on coastal New London Co, CT, US EPA EcoRegion 8.5, USDA Hardiness Zones 6b/7a