Invasive Species Management Japanese Knotweed

Katie Whitcomb: Natural Resource Conservation Technician



Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District

What is Knotweed?

- Invasive Native to Asia
- Aggressive and Noxious
- Robust, bamboo-like perennial
- Rhizomatous (produces underground stems)
- Leaves arranged in zig-zag pattern
- Grows from 3 15 ft tall
- Commonly found
 - Rivers & streams
 - Roads
 - Culverts





3 Phase Project

Phase 1

- Inventory southern portion of County
- Phase 2
 - Inventory northern portion of County

Phase 3

 Determine steps to treat high priority sites



Phase 1 & 2

- "windshield survey"
- Every road in Herkimer County
- Photos taken and GPS location recorded
- Field notes were placed in binders
- Sites still being entered into the iMapInvasives web based data system





Phase 1 - 2016

- Inventoried 9 towns south of the Mohawk River
- Traveled 1,584 miles
- 527 infested sites documented



Phase 2 - 2017

- Inventoried 11 towns north of the Mohawk River
- Traveled over 2,600 miles
- 488 infested sites documented
- Knotweed covered an estimated 44 acres in those sites
 - Developed outreach material
 - Mailed outreach to all municipalities in Herkimer Co



Phase 2 - 2017 Info sheet & Phamphlet

INVASIVE JAPANESE KNOTWEED - TOWN FACT SHEET

What is Japanese Knotweed?

Japanese Knotweed is a robust, bamboo-like perennial plant native to Asia. Common names include Mexican or Japanese bamboo, elephant ear and fleece flower. It is a noxious weed that is fast growing and extremely aggressive. It invades along rivers and roads, but is also found in backyards, forests, parks, and farms



The Problem

Japanese Knotweed cannot be exterminated by cutting or digging up the plant. In fact, these methods have been known to spread the invasive plant. Because even very small root fragments can sprout new plants and grow where ever they are discarded, any cut or dug plants must be fully dried before being disposed of. The root system of Japanese Knotweed can extend 10 feet deep and 20 feet away from the initial plant before sprouting a new stalk. The breadth and depth of the roots makes digging the plants up even less effective. **Mowing/cutting and dumping the clippings of Japanese Knotweed is one of the most common causes of the widespread infestation of this invasive species.

Identifying Japanese Knotweed

- It is a rhizomatous (produces underground stems) perennial plant with distinctive, branching, hollow, bamboo-like stems, that are sometimes covered in purple speckles and can grow from 3-15 feet tall.
- · The leaves of the mature plant are 3 to 6 inches in length with a flat base and pointed tip. They are arranged on arching stems in a zig-zag pattern.
- · The plant flowers in late summer, August to September, with small creamy-white flowers hanging in clusters from the leaf axils (point at which the leaf joins with the stem).
- · The underground rhizomes are thick and woody with a knotty appearance and when broken reveal a bright orange-colored center. The horizontal roots can reach lengths of 65 feet or more.

· The plant develops small winged fruit seeds which are triangular, shiny, and very small (about 1/10 Inch long). Japanese Knotweed spreads primarily by seed (transported by wind, water, animals, and humans).

What to Do if You See Japanese Knotweed Identify

Stop in and take our brochure or visit our website. www.herkimercountyswcd.com to try to make a positive identification. Many plants look similar to Japanese Knotweed

Photograph

Entire plant, stem, leaves, flower, seed. High resolution preferred. We'll need them to confirm identification.

Report

Email us: Katherine.whitcomb@ny.nacdnet.net or call our office: 315-866-2520 Ext. 5

What is the Herkimer County Soil and Water **Conservation District Doing?**

Phases 1 & 2

We are currently working on a project that began in 2016 to identify, record, and prioritize all sites where Japanese Knotweed is found in Herkimer County. Infested sites are documented with photos, a written description of the size of the area, and other valuable information. High priority sites include areas near streams or other bodies of water as well as areas where knotweed is causing maintenance issues for local highway departments and NYS-DOT. We prioritize the infested sites based on natural resource concerns and level of maintenance issues affecting roads and culverts. This will take some coordination with local municipalities and NYS-DOT.

Phase 3

Phase three starts in 2018 and we will determine the necessary steps to treat the high priority areas of Knotweed Infestation. The ultimate goal is to eradicate all high priority sites within the county thus promoting native species growth.



Our Project Description & Outcome

species project to inventory and eradicate high

Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District is involved in a multiyear 3 phase invasive priority areas of Japanese Knotweed

Phase 1

In 2016 focused on identifying areas that Japanese Knotweed has infested the portion of our county south of the Mohawk River, Infested sites will be documented with photos, a written description of the size of the area, and other valuable information. High priority sites will include areas near streams or other bodies of water as well as areas where knotweed is causing maintenance issues for local highway departments and NYS-DOT.

of Herkimer County north of the Mohawk River in

2017 and just like in Phase 1, we will prioritize the

infested sites based on natural resource concerns

and level of maintenance issues affecting roads and culverts. This will take some coordination with

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the necessary steps to treat the high priority areas

of Knotweed infestation. The ultimate goal is to

eradicate all high priority sites within the county

local municipalities and NYS-DOT

thus promoting native species growth

What is Knotweed?

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Japanese Knotweed is a robust, bamboo-like

perennial plant native to Asia. Common names

include Mexican or Japanese bamboo, elephant

ear and fleece flower. It is a noxious weed that is

fast growing and extremely aggressive. It invades

along rivers and roads, but is also found in

Phase 2

The second phase will be to inventory the portion

Phase 3

Knotweed spreads rapidly, forming

dense thickets that overwhelms and shades out native vegetation. This threatens the diversity of our natural ecosystem, reduces species diversity, and negatively impacts wildlife habitat. · Limits recreational access and obstruct-

Why is it a problem?

- ing scenic views.
- Because the around under knotweed. tends to have very little other growth, it can create bank erosion problems, clog small waterways and trout streams. It reduces food sources for wildlife and lower nutrient input into streams systems
- · The aggressive growth of the Knotweed can also damage vards and structures. such as foundation and roads.



Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District

Identifying Japanese

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What to Do if You See Japanese Knotweed: Identify

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Photograph

· Entire plant. stem, leaves, flower, seed. High resolution preferred. We'll need them to confirm identification

Report

 E-mail Herkimer SWCD County Katherine.whitcomb@nv.nacdnet.net_or_call_ou office: 315-866-2520 Ext 5





COUNTY INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT: JAPANESE KNOTWEED INVENTORY

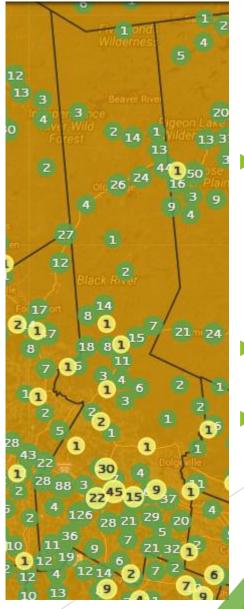
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Phase 3 - 2018 & ongoing

- Prioritize infested sites
 - Based on natural resource concerns
- Obtain proper pesticide applicator certifications
- Begin treatment of highest priority sites





- iMap Invasives showing concentrations of Japanese Knotweed in Herkimer County
- Green -Confirmed
- Yellow -Unconfirmed

Data Collection & Documentation

- Start with Town Maps, taking photos & Field notes
- Photos contain GPS points



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Contact imapinvasives@nynhp.org with any questions or to request an account.

Binders

Organize field notes by town & Road name

Observer Project: Location Photos 890 891 892,89 894 895



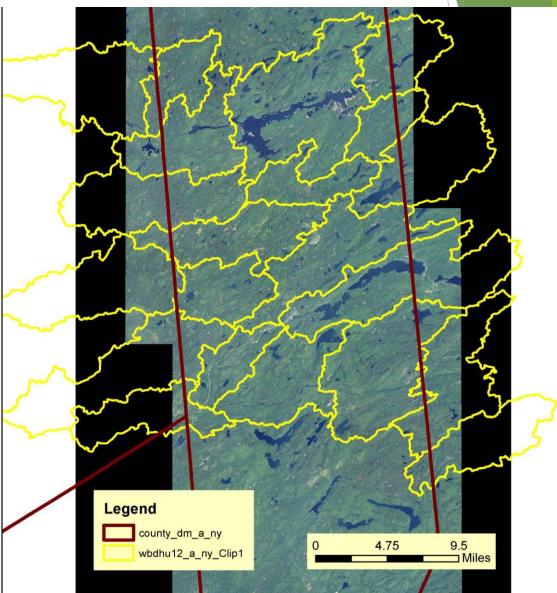
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s to u	oload /	Species Japanese	Name Knoteverd	Date . ^{n/} /10/17 //	Where-Description 5. Side of road, 20' off road lake side bur Shed All sides of intersect in of holly used. Stenese and Morry B.		Longitude	10' × 10 ' 10'x 20' 16' x 40'			

Add photos & field data to iMap Invasives Website

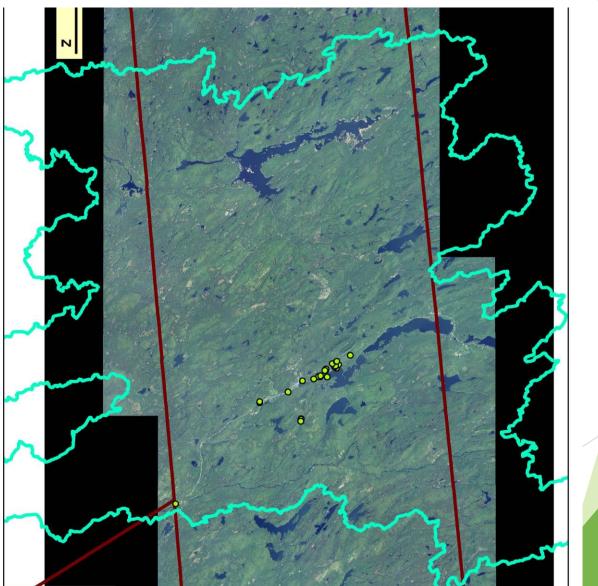
		iMag Shari		vation Data					
			1 2	3	4	5	6	7	
			Step 7 Sub	mit Observa	ation				
			Observer:	I am the observer.					
Photos			Species:	Japanese Knotweed	, Japanese Bamboo				
Closeup Photo			Project:	Herkimer County In	vasive Species Projec	t Japanese Knotweed Inve	ntory		
			Date:	2017-11-10					
			Location:	Lat / Lon Decimal Longitude: -74.9499 Latitude: 43.617316	9699 66				
		<				Submit Obse	rvation		
Photo Credit Upload New Photos				_					
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General Information Do not use special symbols in text boxes. Only lette	rs, numbers, and characters found o	on common ke	eyboards are accepted.						
Observation ID	NY-449312U								
Common Name	Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo			_ /					
Scientific Name	Reynoutria japonica var. japonica : Fallo	opia japonica var.	. japonica	_/_					
Entry Person	katwhitcomb								
			/						

Blackriver Watershed in Herkimer Cour





Documented Knotweed in Blackriver Watershed



Questions?

NYSDEC Invasive Species Awareness Week

▶ July 8th - July 14th



- Photo -Town of Webb
 - Palisades Rd
 - ▶ Nov. 19, 2017