

# Invasive Species Management Japanese Knotweed

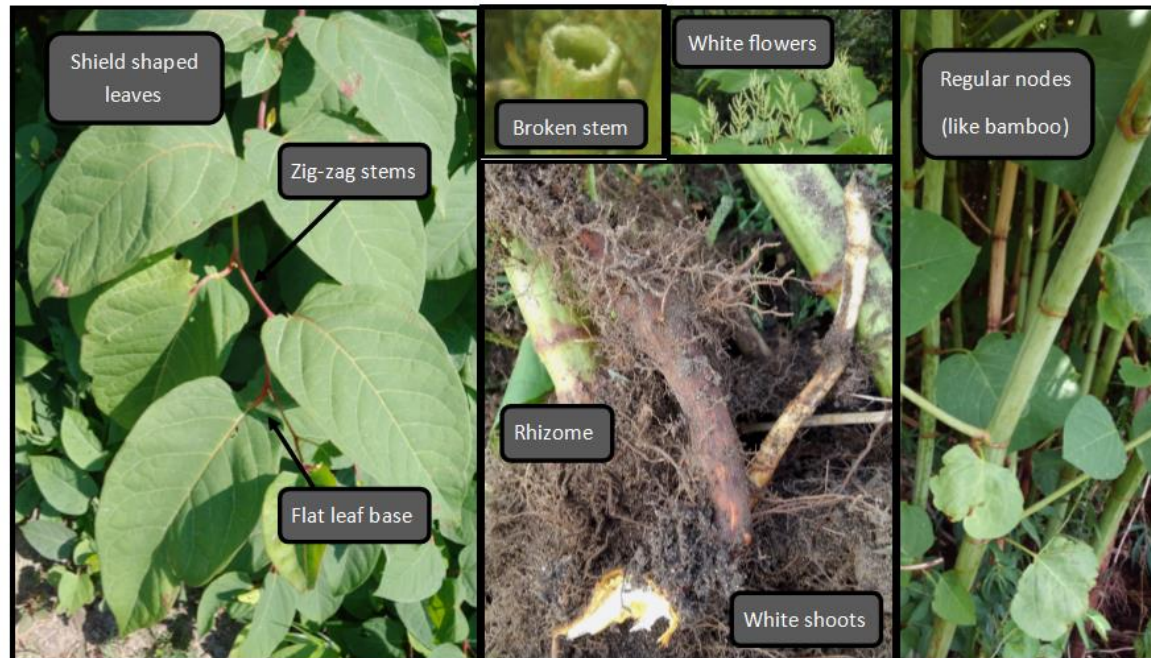
Katie Whitcomb: Natural Resource Conservation Technician



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.herkimercountyswd.com](http://www.herkimercountyswd.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.nadnet.net](mailto:Katherine.whitcomb@ny.nadnet.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

Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District is involved in a multiyear 3 phase invasive species project to inventory and eradicate high 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.

##### Phase 2

The second phase will be to inventory the portion 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 local municipalities and NYS-DOT.

##### Phase 3

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#### Why is it a problem?



- Knotweed spreads rapidly, forming dense thickets that overwhelm and shade out native vegetation. This threatens the diversity of our natural ecosystem, reduces species diversity, and negatively impacts wildlife habitat.
- Limits recreational access and obstructing scenic views.
- Because the ground 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 yards and structures such as foundation and roads.

#### Contact Us



Herkimer County SWCD  
5653 State Route 9  
Herkimer, NY 13330

(315) 866-2520 Ext. 5  
[Katherine.whitcomb@ny.nadnet.net](mailto:Katherine.whitcomb@ny.nadnet.net)

Visit us on the web:  
[www.herkimercountyswd.com](http://www.herkimercountyswd.com)

### HERKIMER COUNTY INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT: JAPANESE KNOTWEED INVENTORY



Stop the Spread of Invasive Knotweed



Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District



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##### Report

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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

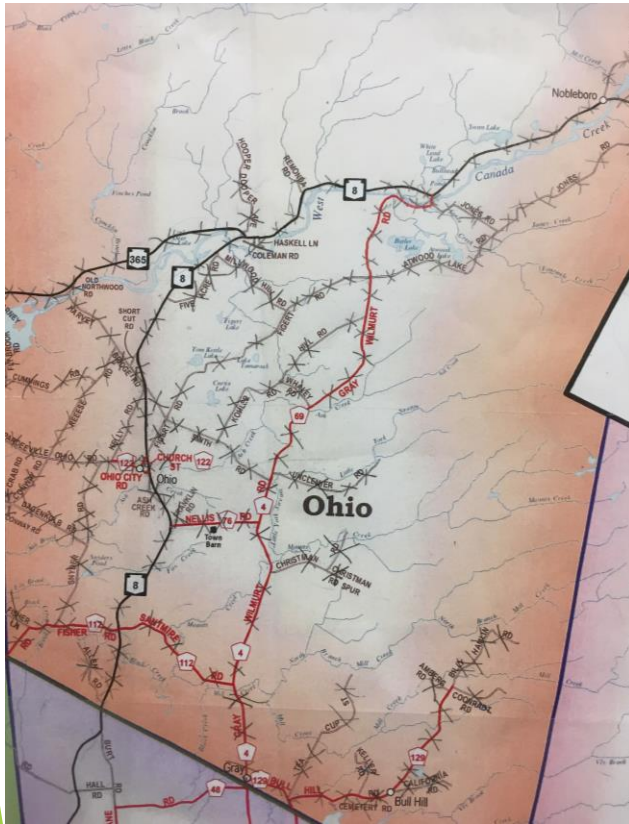


- ▶ iMap Invasives showing concentrations of Japanese Knotweed in Herkimer County
- ▶ Green - Confirmed
- ▶ Yellow - Unconfirmed



# Data Collection & Documentation

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



28 sites  
11,425 sq ft

11/19/17 start 12/19 > 238mi  
end 12/17 > 238mi

iMapInvasives  
Observation Field Form

Observer Name:   
Project: Town of Webb   
Location: Patrick Clear

Enter data at: [www.imapinvasives.org](http://www.imapinvasives.org)

End mileage 12096  
Start Mileage 11911

| Photos to upload | Species Name      | Date     | Where-Description                    | Latitude | Longitude | Comments                  | Obs ID #    |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 884              | Japanese Knotweed | 11/19/17 | SE side of S. 28th St. near driveway | 40.830   | -75.013   | edge of Rd                | 21503       |
| 885              | "                 | "        | Birby Rd west side                   | 40.830   | -75.013   | Roadside, edge of wetland | 21504       |
| 886              | "                 | "        | Birby Rd east side                   | 40.830   | -75.013   | 1 clump 15' off Rd        | 21505       |
| 887              | "                 | "        | "                                    | 40.830   | -75.013   | 15' off Rd                | 21506       |
| 888              | "                 | "        | Birby Rd west side                   | 40.830   | -75.013   | Roadside                  | 21507       |
| 889              | "                 | "        | Pullman Ave south side               | 40.830   | -75.013   | 15' off Rd                | 21508       |
| 890              | "                 | "        | Hollywood Rd north side              | 40.830   | -75.013   | 20' off Rd                | 21509       |
| 891              | "                 | "        | Hollywood Rd north side              | 40.830   | -75.013   | 40' off Rd, by shack      | 21510       |
| 892-894          | 3                 | "        | Hollywood Rd south side              | 40.830   | -75.013   | all sides of intersection | 21511-21513 |
| 895              | 1                 | "        | Hollywood Rd                         | 40.830   | -75.013   | south side                | 21514       |
| 896              | 1                 | "        | Seneca Rd                            | 40.830   | -75.013   | roadside                  | 21515       |
| 897-898          | 2                 | "        | Seneca Rd (1800)                     | 40.830   | -75.013   | roadside by fence         | 21516-21517 |
| 899              | 1                 | "        | Dakota Drive                         | 40.830   | -75.013   | Roadside, east side       | 21518       |
| 900              | 1                 | "        | Mohawk Rd west                       | 40.830   | -75.013   | North side, stream side   | 21519       |
| 901              | 1                 | "        | Mohawk Rd west                       | 40.830   | -75.013   | North side, roadside      | 21520       |
| 909              | 1                 | 11/19/17 | Route 28 north side                  | 40.830   | -75.013   | 20' east of Rd            | 21521       |
| 910              | 1                 | "        | Onadaga Rd south side                | 40.830   | -75.013   | roadside                  | 21522       |
| 911              | 1                 | "        | Onadaga Rd south side                | 40.830   | -75.013   | Roadside                  | 21523       |
| 912              | 1                 | "        | Onadaga Rd north side                | 40.830   | -75.013   | Roadside of intersection  | 21524       |
| 913              | 1                 | "        | Onadaga Rd south side                | 40.830   | -75.013   | Roadside                  | 21525       |

Contact [imapinvasives@nynhp.org](mailto:imapinvasives@nynhp.org) with any questions or to request an account.

20 sites  
8,625 sq ft



# Add photos & field data to iMap Invasives Website

## Photos

### Closeup Photo



Photo Credit

Upload New Photos

## General Information

Do not use special symbols in text boxes. Only letters, numbers, and characters found on common keyboards are accepted.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Observation ID  | NY-449312U  |
| Common Name     | Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo                                  |
| Scientific Name | Reynoutria japonica var. japonica : Fallopia japonica var. japonica |
| Entry Person    | katwhitcomb   |

**iMapInvasives** *Sharing information for invasive management* **Observation Data Entry**  
My iMapInvasives :: Observation Data Entry

1 2 3 4 5 6 **7**

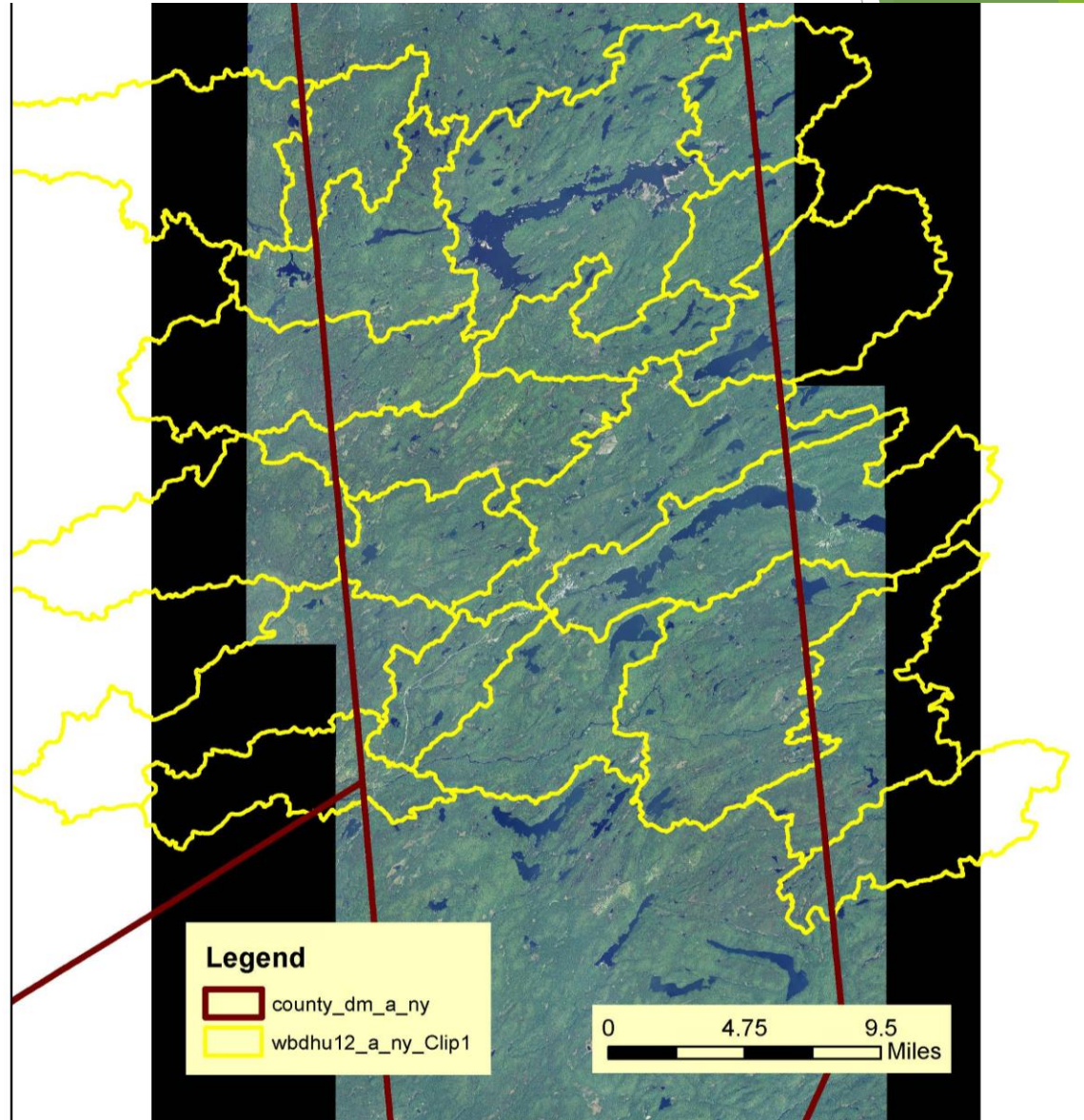
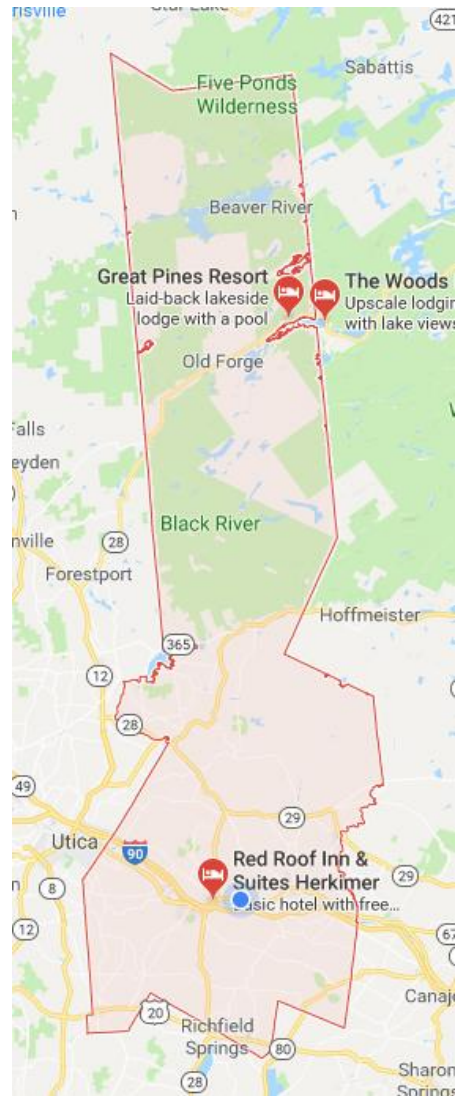
### Step 7 Submit Observation

Submit Observation

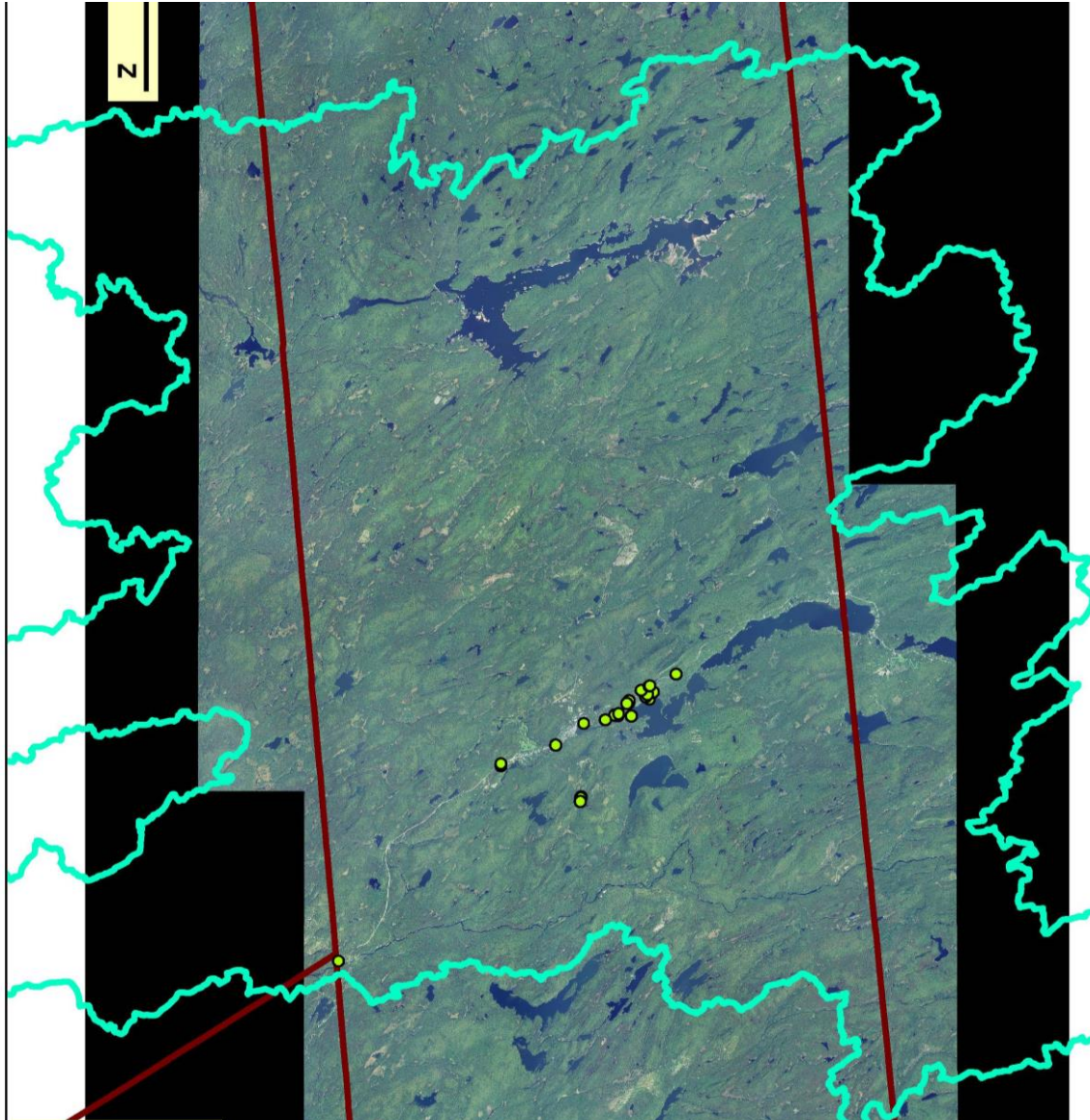
|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Observer: | I am the observer.   |
| Species:  | Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo                                   |
| Project:  | Herkimer County Invasive Species Project Japanese Knotweed Inventory |
| Date:     | 2017-11-10   |
| Location: | Lat / Lon Decimal<br>Longitude: -74.9499699<br>Latitude: 43.6173166  |

Submit Observation

# Blackriver Watershed in Herkimer County



# Documented Knotweed in Blackriver Watershed



# Questions?

- ▶ NYSDEC Invasive Species Awareness Week
  - ▶ July 8<sup>th</sup> - July 14<sup>th</sup>

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

