

Guidance on the Control of Japanese Knotweed in Guernsey (Home and Garden Situation)

DOS AND DON'TS WHEN CONTROLLING JAPANESE KNOTWEED (JKW): -

DO start treating JKW as soon as you see it and keep at it till it's gone. This may take several years, and regular monitoring will be needed.

DO, wherever possible, dispose on JKW on the infected site (details below). Moving it to another site will increase the risk of initiating new infestations.

DO, ensure that any herbicides are used safely and responsibly.

DO NOT strim or chop up JKW as this creates small fragments that can root and spread the problem.

DO NOT move soil contaminated with JKW as this will just spread the problem.

DO NOT fly-tip or place any JKW in household or green waste as it will spread the problem.

DO NOT pull JKW unless you can dispose of it safely. Pulling can tear pieces of the crown out which are very persistent and difficult to kill by composting, drying, or burning.

DO NOT apply herbicides on vulnerable areas*

CONTROL OPTIONS

1. Cutting & Disposal

In situations where herbicides are not approved for use or cannot be used (e.g., near water or livestock) regular cutting can eventually give control but may take many years to complete.

Cut the individual stems at ground level e.g., with a knife, secateurs, or shears. Collect the stems and dry them on a polythene sheet (or similar material that will prevent rooting) until they are dark brown. Burn on site if practical and will not cause a nuisance.

Where burning is not possible the cut stems can be placed fresh or dried in strong black polythene sacks to compost ensuring that no live plant material escapes.

There is no longer any facility to dispose of Japanese Knotweed in landfill so every attempt to dispose of it on site should be made. For off-site disposal options contact Guernsey Waste Management on 221234 or recycle@gov.gg.

2. Use & Choice of herbicide

ALWAYS READ THE PRODUCT LABEL BEFORE USING A HERBICIDE, FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND USE ANY PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT SPECIFIED.

OVER APPLICATION OR POOR DISPOSAL METHODS OF HERBICIDES CAN LEAD TO POLLUTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND RAW WATER SUPPLIES.

*Before spraying with any herbicide check that you are complying with The Prevention of Pollution (Guernsey) Law 1989 (see below).

For best results, treat fully expanded leaves between late May and early October. Cut and safely dispose of any old JKW canes from the previous season before application. Ensure good coverage of the leaf surfaces with the herbicide as directed on the product label.

Types of Herbicide

A. Glyphosate:

UK trials (Jones et al, 2018) concluded that glyphosate-based herbicides give the best control when applied to Japanese Knotweed (JKW) between June and October. This is when JKW is actively, producing more rhizomes and will direct the herbicide downwards into the plant's roots. This timing is better than spring applications when transport systems within the plant favour new top growth away from the roots, so less herbicide is translocated to the roots.

Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide that will kill non target plants if sprayed.

From 31st December 2022, any herbicides containing glyphosate can only be applied in Guernsey by persons holding a relevant National Proficiency Test Council (NPTC) certificate of competence in the safe use of pesticides (or equivalent). These measures are to protect Guernsey's raw water quality and environment.

B. Triclopyr, 2,4-D/Dicamba/MCPA/Mecoprop-P

These herbicides are selective, only killing broad leaved plants and can be used without killing plants like grasses. Check the relevant product detail for its approved uses, the number of applications permitted and application method.

These active ingredients form the basis of several selective weed killer products for lawns. If small knotweed plants are present in lawns, then the use of these products may give some control, but they have not proved as effective as glyphosate-based products in UK trials.

Repeated applications will be needed over several years.

Safe use of Pesticides

***At the time of writing Guernsey Water have identified vulnerable areas which are high risk of pollution to the to the water catchment of the island as "stream banks, ponds, wet meadows, marshy areas, douits, drainage ditches, underground culverts or paved areas". Pesticide**

applications must be at least 3m away from a vulnerable area. This can be reduced to 1m if weed wiper or gel applications are being used. (The Prevention of Pollution (Guernsey) Law 1989).

See www.water.gg/catchment-protection for further details

For further advice contact Guernsey water on 229500 or www.water.gg

For more general advice contact The States Analytical Laboratory on 227612 or statesanalytical@gov.gg

C. Other Options

- i) If you would like additional help in controlling Japanese Knotweed on your property, then a professionally trained contractor could be engaged to apply the herbicides for you. They will need to have a certificate of competence to apply any professional herbicide products or glyphosate-based products.
- ii) If you have large areas or commercial sites infested with Japanese Knotweed you may need to engage a qualified contractor who can draw up and oversee a knotweed management plan in conjunction with the Planning Department, Guernsey Water and the Guernsey Waste Management team, where applicable. This could involve excavating and sieving the soil to remove most of the rhizomes or there are also techniques for burying the knotweed under barrier materials. Plans will have to be site specific to protect any vulnerable areas or sites of special scientific interest and include monitoring and further treatment if required.
- iii) Recent Developments: -
 - a) **MESHTECH**: The use of mesh technology in areas close to water, where herbicides cannot be used, is an alternative control method. The Knotweed is cut back to ground level and a strong metal mesh is secured over the area the mesh is large enough to allow new shoots to grow through but small enough to strangle the knotweed stem as it increases in girth thereby killing it.
 - b) **ROOTWAVE** is another alternative weed control system based on the use of an electric current to destroy plant tissue.

References

Jones, D., Bruce, G., Fowler, M.S. et al. Biol Invasions (2018) 'Optimising physiochemical control of invasive Japanese knotweed':

Cornwall Knotweed Forum (2008). 'Japanese Knotweed Guidance for Identification & Control'

Guernsey Water (last viewed 09/06/2022 'Catchment Protection' available at <http://www.water.gg/catchment-protection>