

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Know Your Knotweed: Let CoosWA Remove This Invasive Weed Free of Charge

Coos Bay, OR (Coos Watershed Association), June 5, 2009 – With summer weather comes the beginning of the knotweed growing season in the Coos watershed. This extremely aggressive plant native to Asia, grows quickly, spreads easily, and displaces native, beneficial vegetation.



Japanese knotweed has a wide, heart-shaped leaf. More photos are available on our website. (Photo by Britt Slattery, USFWS)

There are two types of invasive knotweed in the Coos watershed: Japanese knotweed with a wide, heart-shaped leaf, and Himalayan knotweed with a slender, elongated leaf. Both types of knotweed have white blooms in the later summer and early fall and have a thick, bamboo-like stalk.

The Coos Watershed Association offers a knotweed control program during the summer months at no charge to the landowner. **If you find knotweed on your property, no matter what size, please call (541) 888-5922.** It is important that you avoid cutting down the knotweed because it can regrow stronger and even small cuttings of the plant can resprout elsewhere. CoosWA treats knotweed with an aquatic-safe herbicide. The herbicide will be applied on the knotweed leaves by a licensed applicator with a backpack sprayer, and every precaution will be taken to avoid spraying the surrounding trees and shrubs.

Last year, CoosWA was able to spray knotweed along several rivers in the Coos watershed and are currently treating additional properties this season. CoosWA is also available to consult with you about what native plants to plant after invasive plants are removed and can help with restoration projects on your property when funds are available. Please visit our new Knotweed Resource webpage at <http://www.cooswatershed.org/knotweed> for more information and photographs.

CoosWA also rents small, medium, and large weed wrenches free of charge with a \$25 refundable deposit. Although weed wrenches are not effective in removing knotweed, they are useful to remove Scotch Broom.

About the Coos Watershed Association – The Coos Watershed Association is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 1994 as a way for people with a wide range of interests to get together and discuss the “big picture” of the conditions of the Coos watershed. The Association implements restoration, monitoring, and outreach projects throughout the Coos watershed with the goal of restoring and maintaining healthy, functioning stream systems. The Association also helps individual landowners decide how to manage and restore the watershed’s natural systems.

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