

MORE INVASIVE PLANTS IN THE COOS WATERSHED



Photo source: CC/The Equinest

English Ivy

Able to grow as a ground cover or a climbing vine, English ivy excludes native plants by shading. This ivy's aggressive climbing nature can topple entire trees due to the additional weight.

Himalayan Blackberry

Canes form impenetrable thickets that shade out low growing native vegetation. Dry canes can also act as wildfire fuel.



Photo source: Oregon State Univ.



Photo source: Wisconsin DNR

Reed Canary Grass

This cool-season grass that grows 3-8 feet tall. It forms dense stands on wet meadows, marshes, or stream banks, and excludes native plant species.

English Holly

This is a shiny, evergreen shrub with prickly leaves and red berries late in the year. It is able to dominate the shrub layer and out-compete native plants for light, water, and nutrients.



Photo source: Portland CC

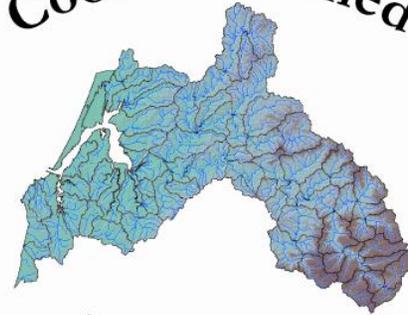


Purple Loosestrife

This perennial herb has tall spikes of magenta flowers during the summer. It easily out-competes native wetland vegetation and causes a loss of biodiversity.

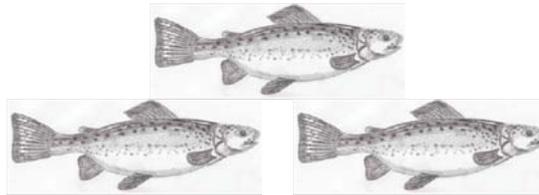
Photo source: Pacific NW Extension

Coos Watershed



Association

supporting environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos watershed



The Coos Watershed Association has been working to restore and maintain healthy stream systems in the Coos watershed since 1993.

Visit <http://www.cooswatershed.org> to subscribe to a quarterly newsletter Coos Currents and to learn how to volunteer or donate.

COOS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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INVASIVE KNOTWEED

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There are two types of invasive knotweed in the Coos watershed: Japanese and Himalayan knotweed.

Both types of knotweed are extremely aggressive and grow very quickly, displacing native, beneficial vegetation along rivers in the Coos watershed.

The Coos Watershed Association offers a free knotweed removal program during the summer months and free advice year-round.

<http://www.cooswatershed.org>
Phone: 541-888-5922

KNOTWEED

There are several kinds of invasive knotweed in Oregon. All kinds of knotweed grow extremely fast and have long, creeping rhizomes that are hard to destroy. All kinds of knotweed have reddish-brown, bamboo-like stems. The plant does not respond to cutting or mowing. It poses a particular threat in riparian zones where it can easily disperse during flood events.

HIMALAYAN KNOTWEED



This knotweed has an elongated leaf with white blooms between July and October. It can grow to be 6 feet tall.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED



Japanese knotweed grows to be very tall (4-9 feet) and has heart-shaped leaves and greenish-white blooms in clusters between July and October.

GIANT KNOTWEED



Giant knotweed is the largest of the knotweeds; it can grow over 12 feet tall with heart-shaped leaves that can be over one foot long.

KNOTWEED IN THE COOS WATERSHED

Much of the knotweed in the Coos watershed, especially along the Coos River, was spread during the 1996 floods. Knotweed spreads through rhizomes - root and stem segments - which transport easily in tidally-influenced river systems. Fragments as small as 1/2-inch can start a new plant and just one patch of knotweed can produce hundreds of new plants. Stream banks were rapidly colonized by the weed, and if not carefully controlled, will continue to spread. Beavers also contribute to the spread of knotweed because they cut it down and promote the spread of rhizomes.



Knotweed is an ornamental plant native to Asia. When it colonizes in areas such as the Coos watershed, it out competes and permanently displaces native vegetation. It grows extremely fast - one small plant can grow up to a foot a week. Native animals and fish cannot use it for food or shelter. Therefore, knotweed destroys terrestrial and aquatic habitat that would otherwise be suitable for wildlife. The food chain could also be disrupted because knotweed takes nitrogen out of the soil without replacing it with leaf litter.

Knotweed threatens current and potential restoration planting sites on the Coos River, Millicoma River, and their tributaries. Past experience has shown that plantings need to be maintained for 3-5 years after establishment before they are self-sustaining.

SPRAYING PROGRAM

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, call (541) 888-5922.** It is important that you avoid cutting down the knotweed because it can regrow even stronger and small cuttings of the plant can resprout elsewhere if not contained.



The Coos Watershed Association treats knotweed with an aquatic-safe herbicide cocktail that can be applied to the foliage from May to October. 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. Herbicides used by CoosWA have relatively low persistence and are considered safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Treating knotweed earlier in the growing season prevents a dense canopy from forming. Patches that are successfully treated and killed can be re-vegetated with native conifer and hardwood trees. Trees provide shade for fish habitats and have root structures that help slow erosion, and filter toxins.

In 2009, the Coos Watershed Association sprayed knotweed patches for almost 30 individual landowners and 8 businesses along the Millicoma and Coos Rivers and in Coos Bay and North Bend. Additionally, due to press coverage of the knotweed program this year, we were able to help 7 other people and learn about other knotweed patches in the area.