

# Nip the Knotweed!

Invasive Japanese Knotweed, also called Mexican Bamboo because of its hollow stems, is taking over riverbanks, hillsides, along roadsides and other disturbed soils. It spreads through roots & rhizomes, cuttings and seeds, crowding out native species and desired ornamental plants.

This 3-step organic control process, followed over 3 years, can knock back the Knotweed while you reintroduce and reestablish natural ecosystems

See more at [NiptheKnotweed public FB Page](#)  
Go to [cipwg.uconn.edu](http://cipwg.uconn.edu) for CT invasive plant info



1. Cut at Base
2. Bag & Dispose
3. Plant Natives!

Do these 3 steps 3 times each summer to starve back the plants. Cut in May/June, July and August before bloom, before nutrients from leaves are sent to the roots for next year's growth.

These methods DON'T control Knotweed, they only encourage it to sprout and spread:



Weed whacking & mowing create cuttings that grow



Pulled roots break & spread



Chemicals can damage other plants & aquatic species

This organic weed control method was developed, tested and proven by Petie Reed and Abby Stokes, Pine Grove Beautification Committee, on the Pine Grove community banks of Niantic River in East Lyme. The first pilot project rescued a 100 x 40 ft section of the river bank in three years while reestablishing native Pitch Pines, shrubs, perennials and grasses. The methodology was presented at 2016 CT Invasive Plants Working Group Symposium at UConn and the presenters have been invited back for 2020 Symposium.

Volunteers continue to scout for and cut back any new Knotweed in the pilot site while they expand their control methods on over one-half mile of Niantic River bank in Pine Grove. See progress & photos at [NiptheKnotweed Facebook Page](#).

For more information about Nip the Knotweed, contact Suzanne Thompson, [suzanne.s.thompson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzanne.s.thompson@sbcglobal.net), 860-662-1531

The later the first cutting, the more plant mass you will have to cut down and remove. But the second or third cutting of the season should be smaller.



If you miss June or July cuttings, do the August pre-bloom cut!



If your site has been mowed or weed whacked frequently, expect to find lots of small plants and sprouts. Nip them!

Last year's dried stems do not need to be bagged and taken away. They will not re-sprout.



Cut back and take away both big stalks and small Knotweed plants.

## Patience & Persistence Pay Off!

It is important to get native plants established, or other invasive species like bittersweet, multiflora rose, barberry and euonymus will move in. Here are some resources about native plants and pollinators: CT Ag Experiment Station, <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Publications/Publications/Pollinator-Information>, National Wildlife Federation, [www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder](http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder), Xerxes Society for Invertebrate Conservation: [www.xerxes.org/pollinator-conservation/](http://www.xerxes.org/pollinator-conservation/), Native Plant Trust (formerly New England Wild Flower Society): [www.nativeplanttrust.org/](http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/) & Go Botany – interactive key and website for plant identification, including information on distribution in New England: <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/>, New England Native Plants Initiatives (includes roadside revegetation manual with profiles of over 100 native plant species, plus links to state organizations and projects): <http://nenativeplants.uconn.edu/>, & Wild Ones Mountain Laurel (Connecticut) Chapter, Public Facebook Group, or email [wild.native.plants@gmail.com](mailto:wild.native.plants@gmail.com)