

KNOTWEED CONTAINMENT



What is Knotweed?

Knotweed is a highly invasive, non-native weed that has become established in this area. The roots and rhizomes can be as much as 30 feet long and are capable of severely damaging foundations, buildings, retaining walls, roads and pavement. Knotweed infestations alter stream beds, reducing the channels capacity to carry flood water. Knotweed outcompetes almost all other vegetation, even trees.*

What does Knotweed Containment mean?

It means keeping noxious weeds where we know they are in order to limit their spread into new areas. Since disturbed land under development is one of the most likely to be a source of noxious weed spread, taking precautionary measures through the planning and permitting process is the most effective way to accomplish this. Remember: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

What are the rules for complying with the Noxious Weed Containment Ordinance? **

1. **Dirt stays on the parcel.** If you're grading, putting in utilities for a development, building a new house, or any other land use activity of this nature, then whatever dirt happens on the parcel, stays on the parcel. Many new knotweed infestations start from fragments of roots or rhizomes that are found in soil that has been moved from sites where knotweed infestation are found.
2. **All equipment used in any of these development activities must be cleaned and inspected before it leaves the property.** Staff from Noxious Weed Control will do the inspections free of charge, but you need to call us to schedule at **least 24 hrs.** before you want us to be there. Weekends and holidays excluded. Equipment should be completely cleaned before the time of inspection.
3. **Don't take any vegetation offsite.** Pieces of knotweed vegetation smaller than an inch long can take root and start another infestation wherever it's transported, or accidentally dropped along the way. There are some rare exceptions to this rule, but only if you have a plan that the board approves and does so in writing.
4. **Clean it before you bring it.** If equipment that you're going to use has been used in an area where noxious weeds are growing, it must be cleaned before bringing it into Thurston County. When you disturb land, it is particularly susceptible to infestations of unwanted plants.
5. **What else?** Any other requirement to contain or prevent the spread of noxious weeds included as a permit condition. There may be circumstances on any given parcel that require additional steps to prevent spreading weeds. We'll try to help you determine the best way to go about it.



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*For more information about identification, biology and control of knotweed, go to our factsheet located at: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/tcweeds/factsheets/Knotweed_2017.pdf

** To see the original language of the Containment Area Management Standards, go to the Thurston County Code, Chapter 17.30.080: http://library.municode.com/HTML/16720/level2/TIT17EN_CH17.30NOWECO.html

Call the Noxious
Weed Office to
schedule wash-
down inspections
before moving
equipment from
infested property.

360-786-5576

