

HIMALAYAN KNOTWEED

Polygonum polystachyum

WHATCOM COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM

THREAT: Himalayan knotweed is an introduced plant, native to south and central Asia, including the Himalayas. This plant has been introduced to Europe, as well as the United States, and has become naturalized in areas of central Europe. It spreads vigorously, both by seed and through creeping underground rhizomes.

DESCRIPTION: Himalayan knotweed is a perennial, growing up to 6 feet high, with red stems and leaf stalks. It has creeping underground rhizomes, which aid in its ability to spread. The oblong, lance-shaped leaves are 4 to 8 inches long, with brown, persistent sheaths at the bases of the leaf stalks. The flowers are white to pink, and occur in loose, branched clusters. Himalayan knotweed will grow on most soil types, but does require moisture. It grows in both sunlight and partial shade.



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Management options are not well known for Himalayan knotweed. Small areas can be hand dug, although care must be taken to remove as much as the root system as possible. The area must also be monitored for re-sprouts from missed root fragments. Contact the Weed Control Board for site specific recommendations.

