Without prompt and vigorous action, knotweed will take over entire riverbanks, displace native habitat, and damage the scenic and recreational quality of Catskill Streams!!!
**What is knotweed?**

Japanese knotweed is a perennial plant native to Asia, but that was brought to the United States as an ornamental.

Common Names include: Japanese Bamboo, Elephant Ear, and Fleeceflower.

It thrives in moist soil or river cobble, full or partial sunlight. Most common in the flood plains along creeks and rivers, also along roadsides and in ditches.

Scientific names: *Fallopia japonica* & *Polygonum cuspidatum*

**Why is knotweed a problem?**

Knotweed is an extremely fast growing and aggressive plant. It invades rivers, creeks, and stream banks, replacing the native vegetation, and alters critical fish and wildlife habitat. It also reduces access to recreational sites access points on streams, rivers, and creeks.

Due to the long and massively intricate root system, large patches are very difficult to eradicate.

**How does it spread?**

New Plants can grow from a 1/2 inch piece of soil if cut up or broken off; proper disposal is critical. This means that one plant can create many more plants. However, knotweed can be spread through many other means:

- Being carried by flooding
- Contaminated fill
- Contaminated yard waste
- Improper Disposal
- Seed Dispersal

**How can it be controlled?**

Several treatment options are available in controlling knotweed:

**Pulling** — which involves digging up the plant and root ball, trying to get as much of the root as possible when pulling up the plant. This method usually requires persistent attention to receive success.

**Cutting** — usually is done close to the base of the knotweed, so as to leave just the roots in the ground. This method usually also requires consistent attention to receive success to the affected area.

**Covering** — This method is combined with the cutting method and usually once the area has been cleared from cutting is then covered with thick fabric or plastic to block the sun.

**Using Herbicides** — These are either sprayed or injected into the plant to kill it. These methods, also may need to be done more than once for effectiveness.

All of these methods when used require proper disposal of the knotweed, including bagging the knotweed and taking it to a waste facility, or placing it on drying racks located above the ground, and then (with the correct permits) burning the knotweed to prevent it from spreading. To find out more please check out our fact sheet located on our website.