

Knotweed in Elizabethtown

By Anita Deming, BRASS President

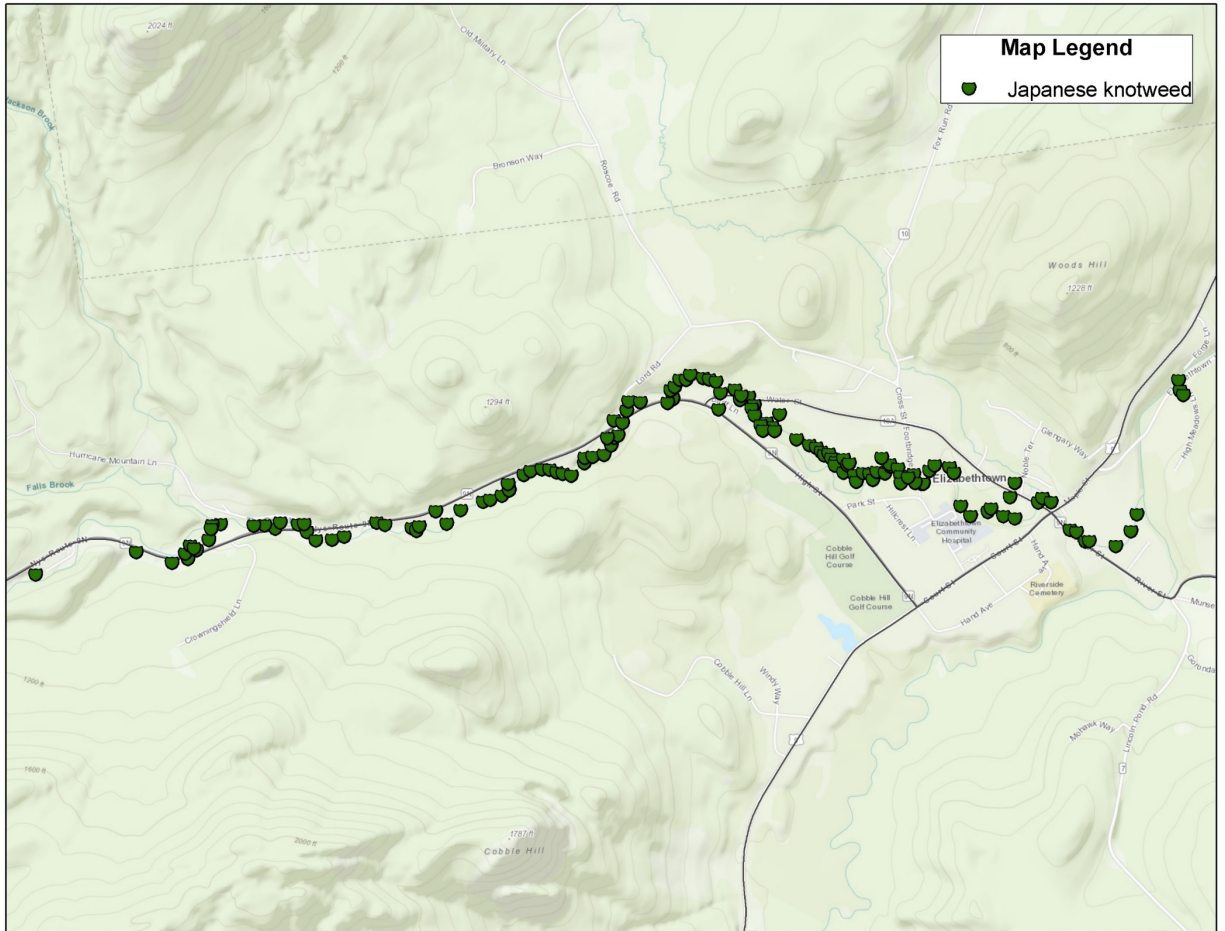
Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) has been in the Adirondacks since before 1978 when I first moved here. As the local extension agent, I was regularly asked how to control this invasive weed from Asia. I was told that they had Knotweed growing up through their driveway asphalt, no herbicides worked, and mowing was useless. Some of this is true, but there is now a labor intensive way to control this weed and encourage native plants to retake the area.

Knotweed is often on uplands, where it spreads slowly. However, there are at least 100 mapped infestations on Water St. in Elizabethtown along The Branch as it flows through town. (Pix 1) Therefore, it is likely to continue spreading downstream rapidly. The Boquet River Association (BRASS) and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) are looking for help to manage this plant along our river. APIPP has a program to control Japanese Knotweed in upland areas. BRASS has a program to control them near water bodies.

The roots grow about 15 feet deep and 40 feet horizontally. (Pix 2) They create a thick and intertwined mat. They break off in sections and float downstream. Each section can start another plant. When the plants break off, they often pull a lot of river bank with them, thus contributing to erosion.

The Adirondack Park Agency has approved an environmentally sound practice for controlling knotweed by injecting 3 cc of 40% Glyphosate into the stem of the plant. This will reduce the stand by about 85% the first year, however you need to follow up for the next several years for continuing control. Mowing, covering, or digging work quite well on the few plants that are left. The best time for control is mid-July to mid-September. (Pix 3 and 4)

As you may expect there is paperwork and regulations that need to be followed. BRASS is offering to help you with the paperwork and steps to implement a control project on your property. We have injectors to lend out and will do the paperwork for the permits. Please contact Anita Deming at 518-873-2178 for more information and a fact sheet on what needs to be done. We are having a training session in mid-July 2019 for interested land owners.



Pix 1 The Branch of the Boquet along Water Street with Japanese Knotweed locations.



Pix 2. Japanese Knotweed growing along the river and forcing out native species.



Pix 3 Japanese Knotweed has a unique zigzag stem with heart shaped leaves.



Pix 4 And flowers in the late summer..



Using the injector with glyphosate to control Japanese Knotweed.