

Post-Irene Knotweed Removal & Mapping Program

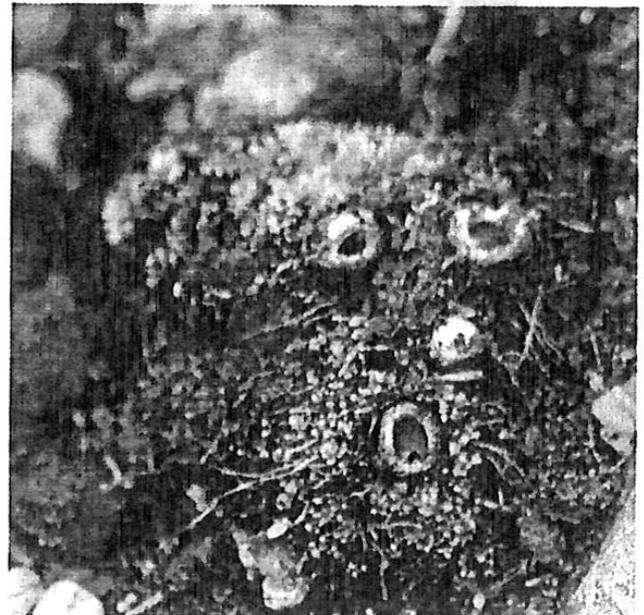
Threat:

Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is an invasive plant that can increase erosion of our river banks, as well as increase the severity of flood events if left unchecked. The plant primarily spreads vegetatively, and pieces that have broken off during high water events can grow new roots when the flood waters subside. Established stands of this plant require vigilance and long term efforts to eradicate and control. This is primarily due to the vast resources stored in their roots, and the difficulty in ensuring that no trace of the plant is left in the soil during removal efforts. With newly established plants, neither of these two factors yet exists, and the season after the flood is an ideal time to control the spread of this plant by targeting plants that have yet to fully establish.

This goal of this program is to give river users, streambank owners, land managers, and the general public the knowledge and skills to find and eliminate these plants before they become fully established and further erode the quality of our riparian areas. <http://www.vtinvasives.org/node/564>



New Shoots among old dead stalks



A still live cluster sheared of stalks by Irene

Using iMap to Map Knotweed:

The goal of knotweed mapping this summer is twofold. The first is to find stands of newly established plants, which can be identified as described in the "Removal Guidelines" section. The second objective is to attempt to gain an understanding of just how much knotweed is out there, and where it is. The information you provide will be available to decision makers and managers statewide. Without this information, any decisions made in regards to managing invasives along our rivers will be incomplete. By mapping both the new and old knotweed along your waterways, you can ensure that managers are making their decisions with the best information possible.

How to use iMap:

Watch the training videos here:

<http://www.vtinvasives.org/plants/report-it/volunteer>

You'll have to request a user name here:

<http://www.imapinvasives.org/vtimi/login/>

Mapping Knotweed:

- Knotweed data mapped will be put to use immediately to decide on where to hold workdays, and to help focus attention on rivers or watersheds that need may otherwise be overlooked.
- There are several layers of information that you can enter, but the most important thing to do is simply report it.
- If you believe that the plant or stand is newly established since Irene, a note to that effect when you enter the data is recommended. It will allow that stand to be targeted during the next volunteer event.

Other Invasive Species in the Channel or Primary Floodplain:

Mapping other invasives will be just as valuable to the same decision makers, but the information may not be put to immediate use this summer.