

# Invasive Weed Control



They are known as invasive species because they were introduced into this country from other ecosystems and due to the lack of natural predators or disease, have been able to spread very quickly and out compete native plants. This has the effect of reducing biodiversity, impacting upon the environment, and devaluing and damaging property in the process

## FACTS & FIGURES

Japanese Knotweed has become a major challenge damaging property structures

Giant Hogweed presents a serious risk to human and animal health.

Horse tail can grow 1.5m into the ground. It is highly dangerous to grazing animals.

**Invasive weeds can choke our canals and waterways with rapid growth and can be extremely difficult to control**

**It is a criminal offence to plant or cause to grow a non-native invasive species**



According to the RICS, the costs of treatment by herbicide currently is "between £2,400 and £6,000 in total for a typical three-bedroom semi-detached house"



## HOW IS IT DONE?

Taking an integrated approach by adopting proper cultural techniques, applying appropriate agronomy and where possible avoiding problems.

Plant protection products used safely and correctly remain a key element in such approaches using professionally trained staff who are certificated and continually keep up to date.

Landowners and homeowners are responsible for preventing the spread of invasives from their land.

An estimated 9.2% of rivers and canals in England and Wales are infested with Japanese Knotweed and 3.1% in Scotland. The total cost of controlling Japanese Knotweed on the road network in Great Britain is estimated to be over £6 million.

Invasives are difficult to kill rapidly and if excavated and removed from site, soils containing viable plant material must be treated as controlled waste. Giant Hogweed presents a risk to human health with sap that on contact makes skin photo-reactive leading to painful blistering and severe skin irritation resulting in purple black scars. Symptoms of this can persist for years after exposure.

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## KEY INFORMATION

- ☑ Whilst all methods of management are and need to be utilised, plant protection products remain key to the solution.
- ☑ Nobody would wish to use a chemical which is unsafe but the current process of authorisation and checking ensures this is not the case.
- ☑ Any consideration must be based on proper science & evidence.
- ☑ The Amenity sector in the UK has led the way in committing itself to best practice & developing an easy to identify way of ensuring a fully qualified operative is being used, the Amenity Standard. They achieve this through their organisation being a member of a UK approved assurance scheme
- ☑ Weed, pest and disease management is both important and essential.
- ☑ The Amenity Forum sets our Golden Rules for Best Practice in the sector - [www.amenityforum.co.uk](http://www.amenityforum.co.uk)

## THE AMENITY STANDARD



The Amenity Standard is a quality management benchmark, to ensure that public spaces are maintained to the highest professional levels; seeking to keep all amenity areas safe and healthy for all to use.

Those amenity organisations that promote the logo show that they have a "licence to practice" and you can have confidence that work undertaken is to best practice standards and fully meets the legal requirements.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

All information is provided by the Amenity Forum and is correct at the time of issue. For further information or help please do get in touch – [admin@amenityforum.net](mailto:admin@amenityforum.net) or visit our website [www.amenityforum.co.uk](http://www.amenityforum.co.uk)