



Certificated Surveyor for the identification and  
control of Japanese knotweed

# Syllabus

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# Module 1

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## Management of Invasive Plant Species

*This module covers the general information and techniques the knowledge of which is required to manage invasive plant species effectively and safely. It is a requirement for taking any species-specific identification and control module.*

### 1 Invasive plants; general information and impacts

- 1.1 Main ecological and economic impacts of invasive plant species
- 1.2 Importance of controlling invasive plant species

### 2 Legislation

- 2.1 Most important legislation relating to the control, herbicide treatment and disposal of invasive plants
- 2.2 How legislation impacts on operators and clients
- 2.3 The principles and practices of Integrated weed management (sustainable use)

### 3 Site biosecurity

- 3.1 Primary pathways that facilitate the spread of invasive species offsite, onsite and around a site
- 3.2 Control methods that can be undertaken to prevent/reduce the spread of invasive species offsite, onsite and around a site.

### 4 Site inspection, risk assessment and monitoring

- 4.1 Information that must be collected during a site assessment and importance of that information
- 4.2 Stages of a risk assessment
- 4.3 RICS Management categories
- 4.4 Requirements of an invasive species distribution map
- 4.5 Importance of mapping in the context of invasive species control
- 4.6 Listing the requirements of monitoring visits

## **5 Control options**

- 5.1 Options available for invasive species management
- 5.2 Importance of understanding species characteristic that influence control
- 5.3 Revegetation

## **6 Herbicide use**

- 6.1 Main categories of herbicides (e.g. persistent, selective, systemic, etc.)
- 6.2 Importance of record keeping
- 6.3 Optimal condition of plants and timing of treatment when using herbicides
- 6.4 Restrictions on use in or near water bodies
- 6.5 Process of attaining approval (permits) for herbicide use near water
- 6.6 Herbicides and adjuvants appropriate to use near water
- 6.7 Pros and cons of different herbicide application methods (e.g. foliar application, stem injection, etc)

## **7 Waste management**

- 7.1 Precautions relating to clearance of vegetation that may contain invasive plant material
- 7.2 Storing and disposing of cleared vegetation that might contain invasive plant material
- 7.3 Procedure for incinerating invasive plant material onsite
- 7.4 Benefits and constraints relating to onsite burial of invasive plant material
- 7.5 Benefits and constraints relating to onsite stockpiles
- 7.6 Depth requirements and precautions related in creating a void for burial
- 7.7 Disposal to landfill
- 7.8 Precautions that must be taken when transporting waste containing invasive plant material

## **8 Reports and reporting**

- 8.1 Site assessment reporting
- 8.2 Requirements of a management plan
- 8.3 Requirements of update reporting
- 8.4 Requirements of completion reporting/certificates

## **9 Warranties, quoting, insurance and bonds**

- 9.1 Importance of providing work of sufficient quality that a guarantee can be provided
- 9.2 PCA membership requirements for providing quotes
- 9.3 Have an awareness of the available Insured Backed Guarantees and pre-payment schemes e.g. Bondpay.

# Module 2

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## Identification and Control options for invasive plants: Japanese knotweed

*This module covers in detail the identification and control of Japanese knotweed and provides basic information on other problematic invasive plant species.*

### 1 Japanese knotweed - ecology, impacts and identification

- 1.1 Biology and ecology of Japanese knotweed and the various drivers and constraints on its spread, both in its native and introduced ranges
- 1.2 Impacts and risks associated with Japanese knotweed in the natural and built environment
- 1.3 Positive impacts of Japanese knotweed
- 1.4 Japanese knotweed identification at all stages of its development, including rhizome
- 1.5 Identification of other Asiatic knotweeds (including hybrids) and Russian vine
- 1.6 Identification of native species that are frequently mistaken for Japanese knotweed

### 2 Other invasive plant species to be aware of

- 2.1 Some common invasive plant species of which clients should be aware e.g. Giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, Giant rhubarb, Rhododendron, etc. and options for their control
- 2.2 Main groups of invasive plants (e.g. fresh water aquatics, riparian, woodland, etc.)

### 3 Controlling Japanese knotweed

- 3.1 Factors that must be considered when developing a management plan for Japanese knotweed
- 3.2 Primary control methods that have a proven effectiveness for the control of Japanese knotweed
- 3.3 Determining the best control option for different scenarios
- 3.4 Pros and cons associated with different control methods
- 3.5 Herbicides that have been shown to be effective on Japanese knotweed

- 3.6 Optimal plant condition and timing relating to herbicide effectiveness
- 3.7 Stockpiling (bunding), Screening (soil sifting) and Rhizome fragmentation and cultivation as means to control Japanese knotweed
- 3.8 Specific requirements for onsite burial of Japanese knotweed
- 3.9 Best practice for working with root barriers (geotextiles)
- 3.10 Specific requirements for landfill disposal of Japanese knotweed
- 3.11 Specific requirements for vegetation clearance when Japanese knotweed is present
- 3.12 Procedures for Japanese knotweed winter cane removal
- 3.13 Biological Control and Japanese knotweed

## **4 Developing a Japanese knotweed management plan**

- 4.1 Factors to consider when developing a Japanese knotweed management plan
- 4.2 Determining the optimal control method including consideration of the client's future land use requirements

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