



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 species, general information and impacts

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 1.1 List the main ecological and economic impacts of invasive plant species
- 1.2 Explain clearly and succinctly why it is important to control invasive plant species

### 2 Legislation

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 2.1 List the most important legislation relating to the control, herbicide treatment and disposal of invasive plants
- 2.2 Describe in plain English how the legislation impacts on operators and clients

### 3 Site inspection, risk assessment and monitoring

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 3.1 List the information that must be collected during a site assessment and describe the importance of that information
- 3.2 List the stages of a risk assessment
- 3.3 Carry out a Japanese Knotweed risk assessment if provided with sufficient information, such as case studies
- 3.4 List the requirement of an invasive species distribution
- 3.5 Describe why mapping is important in the context of invasive species control
- 3.6 List the requirements of monitoring visits

### 4 Biosecurity

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 4.1 List the contents of a Japanese Knotweed Management Plan and describe the role and importance of such a plan
- 4.2 List the primary vectors that facilitate the spread of invasive species offsite and around a site

- 4.3 Describe control methods that can be undertaken to prevent/reduce the spread of invasive species offsite and around a site.
- 4.4 List the primary vectors that facilitate the spread of invasive species onto a site
- 4.5 Describe control methods that can be undertaken to prevent/reduce spread onto a site

## **5 Herbicide use**

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 5.1 List the main categories of herbicides (e.g. persistent, selective, systemic, etc.) used on invasive plants and be able to name examples of a product from each category
- 5.2 List the required records that must be kept after each herbicide treatment
- 5.3 Describe the optimal condition of plants and timing of treatment when using herbicides from the different categories
- 5.4 List the distance from water bodies within which herbicide treatment is restricted
- 5.5 Describe the process of attaining approval for herbicide use within that boundary
- 5.6 List what herbicides and adjuvant are appropriate to use near water
- 5.7 List the pros and cons of different herbicide application methods (e.g. foliar application, stem injection, etc)
- 5.8 Describe the appropriate use of different herbicide application methods

## **6 Waste Management**

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 6.1 Describe the proper technique and precautions that must be taken during the clearance of vegetation that may contain invasive plant material
- 6.2 Describe the processes necessary for storing and disposing of cleared vegetation that might contain invasive plant material
- 6.3 Describe the proper procedure for incinerating invasive plant material
- 6.4 List the benefits of and the constraints on onsite burial of invasive plant material
- 6.5 List the depth requirements and precautions related in creating a void for burial
- 6.6 List the requirement of disposal to landfill
- 6.7 Describe the necessary precautions that must be taken when transporting waste contaminated with invasive plant material to a licensed waste disposal facility

## **7 Reports**

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 7.1 List the requirements of a site assessment report
- 7.2 List the requirements of a management plan and the associated written report
- 7.3 List the requirements of update reports
- 7.4 List the requirements of a completion report

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

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 8.1 Describe the important of providing work of sufficient quality that a guarantee can be provided
- 8.2 List the PCA memberships requirements for providing quotes
- 8.3 List the PCA exclusive offerings relating to Insured Guarantees (Remedial Work), Insurance (Structural Cover) and 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

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 1.1 Describe the biology and ecology of Japanese Knotweed and the various drivers and constraints on its spread, both in its native and introduced range
- 1.2 List the impacts and risks associated with Japanese Knotweed in the natural and built environment
- 1.3 List the positive impacts of Japanese Knotweed
- 1.4 Identify Japanese Knotweed at all stages of its development, including rhizome, from both images and plant specimens
- 1.5 Identify other Asiatic Knotweeds (including hybrids) and Russian Vine from both images and plant specimens
- 1.6 Identify native species that are frequently mistaken for Japanese Knotweed from both images and hand specimens

### 2 Controlling Japanese Knotweed

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 2.1 List the factors that must be considered when developing a management plan for Japanese Knotweed
- 2.2 List the primary control methods that have a proven effectiveness for the control of Japanese Knotweed
- 2.3 Determine the best control option for different Japanese Knotweed infestation scenarios if provided with sufficient information, such as case studies
- 2.4 List the pros and cons associated with different control methods
- 2.5 List herbicides that have been shown to be effective on Japanese Knotweed
- 2.6 Describe the optimal plant condition and timing relating to the use of different effective herbicides
- 2.7 Describe the procedure of using stockpiles (bunds) to control Japanese Knotweed
- 2.8 Describe the procedures of using screening (sifting) to control Japanese Knotweed
- 2.9 Describe the procedures of using rhizome fragmentation and cultivation to control

## Japanese Knotweed

- 2.10 List the Japanese Knotweed specific requirements for onsite burial of plant material
- 2.11 Describe best practice for working with root barriers (geotextiles) in the context of controlling Japanese Knotweed
- 2.12 List the Japanese Knotweed specific requirements for landfill disposal of plant material
- 2.13 Describe the Japanese Knotweed specific requirements for vegetation clearance if the vegetation contains living Japanese Knotweed
- 2.14 Describe the procedures of Japanese Knotweed winter cane removal
- 2.15 Describe the use of biological control for treating Japanese Knotweed
- 2.16 Describe how to carry out rhizome viability testing
- 2.17 List the pros and cons associate with rhizome viability testing

### **3 Other Invasive plant species to be aware of**

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 3.1 List the main other invasive plant species of which clients should be aware
- 3.2 List the main groups of invasive plants (e.g. fresh water aquatics, riparian invasive plants, etc) and name a representative example

### **4 Recap of Module 1**

*On completion of the course participants will be able to:*

- 4.1 List the general factors involved in the control of invasive plant species as describes in Module 1.

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