Knotweed Replacement Notes & Options

Knotweed risk: Invasive knotweed is often not totally dead (even if it looks like it), and digging can spur it into growing. Because of this, we don't recommend planting until the knotweed is rotting underground (the ground feels spongy). This also protects the investment on new plants (which could be damaged by future sprays if planted too soon) and makes treatment easier to conduct. However, we understand that erosion control is very important, and may outweigh the risk of "angering" the knotweed roots and rhizomes. If you plant when treatments are still ongoing, it is crucial to carefully and clearly mark the new plants to help those conducting treatment readily identify what needs extra protection and precautions

Herbicide risk: Milestone (aminopyralid) has low activity in soil (35 day half-life), but it does do "pre-emergent control"--*e.g.* not letting seeds sprout. For this reason, we recommend against sowing seeds in the first year after treatment is complete; plugs or adult plants are more likely to do well. Clearcast (imazamox) has very low soil persistence (10 day half-life) and no pre-emergent control. Adult plants still stand a better chance of surviving (and they're easier to spot), but seeds should do fine. Clearcast is used in combination with Aquaneat (glyphosate). The half-life of Aquaneat varies from ~1 to 200 days depending on site conditions, application methods, and total amount applied (typical half-life for soil is 50 days and in water it varies from a few days to 90 days).

Plants to consider: Below is a selection of native plants that are likely to do well in areas previously dominated by invasive knotweeds, though there are many other options. These plants are less likely to be damaged by future sprays, though the risk is *never* zero. Grasses have the lowest likelihood of harm.

- Trees: black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), aspens/poplars (*Populus* spp.), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Shrubs: dogwoods (*Cornus* spp, especially red-osier dogwood, *C. sericea*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
- Perennials: purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), spring cinquefoil (*Potentilla neumanniana)*
- Perennial grasses: little bluestem (*Schizacyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Plants to avoid: Cedar, juniper, spruce, and legumes (honey locust, beans, peas, clovers, etc.) are all highly susceptible to Milestone herbicide. If further treatments are necessary, these plants will almost certainly be injured or die. See a more complete list on the Milestone label. Risk is much lower for areas treated with Clearcast/Aquaneat.

To learn more about invasive species management efforts in northwest lower Michigan, check out our website: www.HabitatMatters.org