Japanese Knotweed in the UK by Sedgwick Sadik

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Japanese knotweed was intentionally introduced in to the UK by horticulturists late last century, they valued the plants oriental aesthetics and used it as an ornamental border plant. It took a while for anyone to realize that knotweed spread like wildfire, caused serious structural damage to buildings, and was nigh on impossible to eradicate.

These days the problems associated with knotweed are known all too well by land owners and mortgage provides alike. It is listed by the world conservation union as an invasive species and there are several pieces of UK legislation that relate to restricting the spread of knotweed, and how to properly dispose of any contaminated materials. In fact knotweed itself is classified as controlled waste under the environmental protection act of 1990 and can therefore only be disposed of at approved landfill sites. It is also an offence to plant Japanese knotweed or to otherwise cause it to grow in the UK, this means that you have to be very careful when transporting waste of this kind, one small rhizome trapped in the tread of a shoe or car tyre can cause the spread of this hardy invader.

In fact knotweed eradication is best left to the experts, not only for the reasons listed above, but also due to the fact that specialist herbicides are required to actually kill the plant in the first place. Knotweed is so resilient that treating it with herbicides available from domestic garden centres will not only fail to kill it, but will actually cause it to build an immunity. This ultimately makes the job of an eradication specialist harder, and means that more applications are required to successfully treat the infestation.

Finding best control services

When choosing among the many knotweed control specialists available, its always a good idea to check out the feedback left by their previous clients, a good provider will have no shortage of praise left by previous satisfied customers. Another important factor to consider is whether or not the eradication is actually guaranteed. All the best knotweed removal contractors will offer five and ten year guarantees on their work, this means that if the infestation should reoccur within this time you do not have any additional expense to worry about.

Monitoring is an essential component of any effective knotweed management plan, the contractor should provide you with a schedule detailing periodic return visits, these visits allow the contractor to monitor the site for regrowth following the initial eradication, and to quickly respond to any new growth.

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Sedgwick Sadik - About Author:
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