



# Knotweed

O & T Guide W-9

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Knotweed, *Polygonum aviculare*, is a non-native annual with a spreading growth pattern, oval leaves, and distinct membranous sheaths that grow around the swollen stem nodes. It is often found in compacted soil or in high traffic areas. Knotweed is also known as prostrate knotweed, oval leaf knotweed, matweed, wireweed, and stone grass.

The stems can grow to about 4 ft. long, are round in cross-section, and smooth. The plant has a spreading growth pattern but the stems do not root at the nodes. The stem nodes are swollen and are each covered with a thin, membranous sheath that may be light- to dark-brown or purple in color. The leaves are oval or oblong in shape, hairless, with smooth or wavy edges, and grow 0.2-1.0 in. long by 0.3 in. wide.



The plant produces small flowers with five petals each that grow from the leaf axils. The flowers grow in clusters of 3-8 and are white, yellow, or pink in color. Knotweed grows from a fibrous taproot and reproduces through seed only.





Management:

- Physically remove plants before seed production
- Vigorous, healthy turf can compete with knotweed and reduce infestations
- Herbicides are effective