

Trout Unlimited Nutmeg Chapter Mill River Task Force

SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR THE NUTMEG JAPANESE KNOTWEED REMOVAL WORK SESSIONS

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THESE PROCEDURES AND PRECAUTIONS BEFORE
COMING TO A KNOTWEED REMOVAL SESSION.**

We require all knotweed removal volunteers to read these procedures carefully and to be prepared to adhere to them. We'll cover these points again at the beginning of each session, prior to any of us beginning knotweed removal activities. Thank you for adhering strictly to these guidelines, and thank you for volunteering for this vital work.

To stay safe and help all volunteers have a safe as well as productive day, please:

When preparing before we meet at the river

We'll provide lateral-motion dual-support weed cutters which are the safest most efficient tool for this job. Picture a golf putter, with a foot-long serrated blade (vs. putter head) that's attached at both its ends to the lower end of the four-foot long handle. If you have your own feel free to bring it. You may also bring hedge-clipper-type shears but these will be much less efficient.

Don't, however, bring machete-type blades! For everyone's safety these types of tools won't be allowed on the job.

Work gloves are mandatory – they enhance tool grip and provide a measure of safety against an accidental brush with a weed stalk.

Wear closed leather, hard composite, or thick rubber boots, no mesh running shoes/sneakers.

Bring water/fluids though we'll have water too, a hat with brim, and other sun/heat protection, to ensure you stay comfortable and also mentally sharp and undistracted.
Also bring snacks, lunch, etc. to stay energized!

Speaking of distractions, no ipod-type devices! But bug repellent and raingear may be needed.

To stay safe as we attack the knotweed

Listen carefully to instructions we'll provide about safely using the weed cutters, even if you're familiar with them.

After each cutting swing adjust your grip to maintain a firm non-slip grasp of your tool handle.

Maintain a minimum distance of ten feet between each other at all times.

We will have a safety coach reminding us of these points – do what the coach says!

Following these procedures will help us have a safe day helping the Mill River – Thanks!