

# ROAD BUSINESS

A newsletter for municipal employees, public and private road-related organizations, and citizens.

## On the Road in NH:



### NHDOT Crews Apply BMPs to Roadside Invasive Plants

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Purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed are common examples of invasive plants found in New Hampshire. An invasive plant is non-native and is able to spread rapidly throughout the landscape. Invasive plants threaten the survival of native plants and animals, interfere with ecosystem functions, threaten agriculture, and endanger human health.

Invasive plants spread from site to site by a variety of means, including by wind, water, animals, and people. Some common ways people spread invasive plants to new sites are by gardening, decorating, moving fill, or anything involving moving plants or plant parts.

Many routine roadside maintenance and construction activities contribute to the spread of invasive plants. For example, if mowing operations take place after invasive plants have gone to seed, typically by late summer, many seeds and stems are dragged down the road by the mower. Some plants can even sprout from small stem fragments, including Knotweed, which only requires half of an inch of stem to sprout.

Whenever possible, complete mowing operations before invasive plants go to seed. Clean seeds and other plant material from mowing equipment at least daily, as well as prior to transport to a new site. Also, don't mow knotweed! If roadside knotweed is

causing safety concerns, cut it by hand with loppers, scythe, or line trimmer ("weed whacker"). The intact stems can be left on the ground.

It is the goal of the NHDOT to avoid spreading invasive plants to new sites during its maintenance and construction activities. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for invasive plants were used by the NHDOT during mowing operations this summer and mowing crews have done an excellent job avoiding knotweed while mowing our roadsides. Please use BMPs to help prevent the spread of invasive plants when mowing roadsides.

Spread the word...not the weed!

For more information: <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/project-development/environment/units/technicalservices/documents/BMPsforRoadsideInvasivePlants.pdf>

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