

# Mason RR Trail Knotweed Control at Black Brook Bridge 5/25 & 6/8/2013



Mason RR Trail, Black Brook Bridge looking south. Staked haybales keep the plastic sheeting in place for 2 years to smother the knotweed.



## What's that black plastic?

The Mason Conservation Commission is using the plastic to eradicate Japanese knotweed that got established here when this bridge was built.

The black plastic traps the sun's heat and "cooks" the knotweed roots and any shoots that might sprout. When the plastic is removed, native grasses and wildflowers will return but the knotweed will not.

Japanese knotweed is native to eastern Asia. It was introduced to the U.S. in the 1800's as an ornamental and for erosion control. In New Hampshire it's classified as a "noxious weed" because it pushes out native species. It doesn't spread by seed but instead sends out runners that quickly form dense thickets.

Laminated information sheet stapled to the bridge railing to inform trail users about knotweed control. The plastic smothering method is being used rather than herbicides because the site is so near water.

## Mason RR Trail Knotweed Control at Black Brook Bridge 5/25 & 6/8/2013



Close-up view of southeast corner of Black Brook bridge embankment. Knotweed infestation was only on the south side of the bridge because fill from highway ditch diggings was used to build up the bridge approach on this side.



Close-up view of southwest corner of Black Brook bridge embankment. Putting this knotweed control in place took 18 volunteer hours in May and June 2013, a total value of \$344.44 as unskilled labor by Mason Conservation Commissioners and friends. Labor match record is included with final report on Jackson Road Trestle Repair project.