

Dear Property Owners,

We are asking your cooperation in controlling the spread of three highly invasive plants that may be growing on your property; Purple Loosestrife, Japanese Knotweed and Poison Ivy. If you need help containing the spread of these plants or have any questions, please contact me at [mbowen@videotron.ca](mailto:mbowen@videotron.ca)

Thank you for doing your part to protect our lake community!

Mariam Bowen  
Environment Officer, LSJ Executive Committee

### **HOW TO IDENTIFY PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE** (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple Loosestrife can grow up to one-and-a-half metres in height, and its flowers have 5-7 pink-purple petals on long flower spikes. Stems are woody and square with opposite or leaves in pairs or whorls of three.



The plant is aggressive and forms dense stands with thick mats of roots that can spread over large areas, degrading habitat for many native birds, insects and other species, reducing biodiversity, clogging ditches and choking out native vegetation.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

The best time to remove purple loosestrife is in July and early August when it is in flower.

- Small areas can be dug by hand. The entire root system must be removed from the soil to prevent re-sprouting. Purple Loosestrife is not poisonous.

- Put all parts of the plants in dark coloured plastic bags, seal them, and put the bags in the garbage.
- DO NOT compost them.
- DO NOT discard them in natural areas. Discarded flowers may produce seeds.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY POISON IVY (Toxicodendron radicans)

Poison ivy is a shrub that can grow anywhere from 20 centimetres to a metre tall. Its leaves are shiny and made up of three pointed smaller leaves. The stem of the middle leaflet is much longer than those of the other 2 leaflets. Edges of the leaves can be smooth or notched. In the spring they are reddish, turning to green in summer and yellow, orange or red in the fall. Poison ivy produces cream-coloured flowers in summer and round, green, waxy fruit in September. A climbing vine variety can also be found in southwestern Québec.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Please be careful and wear protective clothing and not let it come in contact with your skin.** Wear rubber gloves, a long-sleeved shirt and pants.



- Pull the plants out with the roots and any underground stems.
- Dispose of them by placing them in labeled plastic bags and putting them in your garbage. Even dead poison ivy plants can cause allergic reactions. Handle these carefully as well!
- DO NOT compost them
- DO NOT use herbicides or chemical control methods.
- NEVER burn poison ivy plants
- WASH clothes that have come into contact with the sap separately from uncontaminated clothing in hot water with soap.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY JAPANESE KNOTWEED (*Fallopia japonica*)

Japanese Knotweed forms dense thickets of tall, straight, bamboo-like plants growing 1-5m in height. This invasive plant has hollow, smooth, purple to green coloured stems. Alternate leaves are heart to triangular shaped 8-10 cm wide and 15 cm in length and grow in a zigzag pattern along the plant's arching stems. Stems are hollow and green, sometimes with reddish-brown speckles and may persist through the winter as bare, grey-or straw-coloured hollow stalks. Flowers are plumes of small, white to green clusters in the spring.

Knotweeds grow aggressively and are very hard to kill. They have a horizontal root system that spreads up to 10m away from the parent plant and can reduce native plants to 0%.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Cut the stems off at ground level several times over the growing season to exhaust it. **Do this for a number of years**
- Install a dark tarp (such as heavy geotextile, geomembrane, or dark polyethylene sheeting) to prevent light from reaching the ground. It should be loose enough so any growth underneath doesn't break through it.
- Extend the tarp a few meters beyond the perimeter of the colony to prevent new stems from growing on the periphery.
- Weigh down the tarp material (tent pegs can be used) so it doesn't blow away. **In addition, it must be left in place for many years**

- Carefully collect all the clippings and place them in heavy-duty waterproof garbage bags. Store them in the sun a few weeks before putting them out with the trash
- DO NOT compost any of the clippings
- NEVER toss them in a natural environment