

Civils & Soft Landscaping



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Reader Enquiry: 63

See Japanese Knotweed Control at the DCE Meet The Experts Seminar (p4 & 5)

Despite another summer of media scare stories and some staggering statistics when it comes to the cost of controlling invasive non-native species within the UK, Japanese Knotweed, and the treatment of it, need not be feared as long as integrated management plans delivered by competent professionals are put in place.

That's the message from David Layland, Joint Managing Director of Japanese Knotweed Control, against a background of increased customer concerns over both the threat and the cost of knotweed infestation.

An incredible £1.7 billion is spent every year on controlling invasive species in the UK (Defra 2010) with £70 million alone spent on the site at London Olympics (RHS estimate). Meanwhile, national press headlines continue to outline the dangers of knotweed infestation and the problems it can cause through denied mortgage applications and aborted house sales.

Reinforcing Japanese Knotweed Control's underlying themes of promoting best practice and driving up industry standards, Layland offers his own formula for successful treatment; an integrated management plan specific to each infested site and a proactive approach involving the careful selection from

the start of competent, trained contractors and operatives.

"Looked at nationally, and not least using the Defra data, the scale and expense of treatment programmes appear enormous. However the correct choice of knowledgeable, fully trained contractors and an active management plan backed up by careful risk assessment and priority of works, can seriously minimise costs and ensure treatment success", says Layland.

He continues to campaign for industry operatives to have to fulfill several quality criteria as a minimum requirement. These include being BASIS trained, NPTC certified and Amenity Assured, all underpinned with the offer of dedicated insurance specifically for the task in hand.

Layland has also reiterated his commitment to the Invasive Non-Native Specialists Association (INNSA). This new industry body for companies involved in the control and treatment of invasive species was recently established to drive up industry standards and offer peace of mind to clients and, as one of its founder members, Japanese Knotweed Control suggests INNSA membership should be another important consideration when it comes to credentials suitability.