

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

STEM INJECTION TRAINING COURSE



Specialised new training aimed at the eradication of Japanese knotweed has been launched.

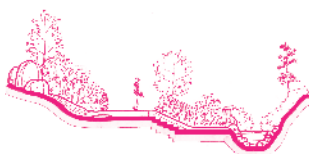
Cheshire-based Reaseheath College and Stem Injection Systems (Europe) have been promoting training in the use of an innovative new direct stem injection system which is set to augment traditional chemical spraying and 'dig and dump' treatment methods for non-native invasive plants.

The hand-held stem injection applicator works by delivering a measured dose of herbicide into the stem of the plant rather than just to the leaf surface. This means it targets only the plants injected and there is no environmental risk of spray drift, run-off or contamination of watercourses and other sensitive vegetation. Injection directly into the plant stem means the method is unaffected by rain or wind and can be applied in all weathers throughout the growing season which assists in dramatically reducing treatment times for the removal of Japanese knotweed to a single season.

Reaseheath College, based in Nantwich, which has one of the biggest horticultural departments in the country, has devised a specific training course in the use of the new equipment and is looking for accreditation with a national awarding body.

Head of Horticulture Ian Benison said: "We are delighted to be able to work with such a forward thinking and rapidly expanding company towards developing and delivering training for the control of Japanese knotweed. We are expecting a great demand from industry because there are no other courses like this in the country."

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