

Men on a mission to wipe out superweeds

WEEDBUSTERS David Layland and Richard Podmore hope to double their company's turnover this year after securing a UK and European supply deal with an American manufacturer.

Their business, **Stem Injection Systems**, has an agreement with Oregon-based **JK Injection Tools** to distribute its kit for tackling Japanese knotweed and other 'superweeds'.

The duo have won contracts in the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany and Switzerland as well as in Britain to supply the system to local authorities, companies and golf clubs.

With JK's equipment, superweeds are killed by injecting a dose of herbicide into the stems, rather than by the usual method of spraying chemicals



WEEDBUSTERS David Layland (left) and Richard Podmore on a site where their company is at work in Reddish Vale

on them from a tank. Mr Layland said the JK method is more effective as it is not affected by windy or wet weather.

Stem Injection Systems is part of **Cityscape Design and Engineering Group**, based in Reddish, near Stockport.

The group includes a Japanese knotweed treatment business and **Smoke Free Solutions**, which supplies smoking shelters to pubs, restaurants and other venues.

Mr Layland said he was hoping to achieve sales of up to £500,000 in the first full year of the contract with JK Injection Tools, which would more than double their group's total revenues.

"This is the first time this treatment method has been available outside the US and we've already had enormous interest from a number of commercial organisations and local authorities," he said.

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