

ESC REPORT TO THE MKL BOARD ON HERBICIDE TREATMENT OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED

At its July 24, 2023, meeting of the Mt. Kemble Lake Association Board, the Directors asked the head of Grounds, Lori Denson, to secure a recommendation from the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) on *the appropriate use of any herbicides in the treatment of Japanese Knotweed (JK) found on community property*. This followed an exchange of perspectives on the safety of specific herbicides (Glyphosate/Roundup and Garlon 4 Ultra). It was broadly accepted that risks associated with uncontrolled JK require that it needs to be controlled and eradicated.

The ESC held a meeting attended by all members to seek consensus on the appropriate application of herbicides on community property. The questions before it were:

- A. How can we determine the safest and most effective ways of ending the presence of JK on community property that is *not* near or adjacent to water?
- B. How can we determine the safest and most effective ways of ending the presence of JK on community property that is near, adjacent to or in water?
- C. Assuming appropriate application, what herbicides are acceptable, and which are not?

To answer these questions, it was decided that opinions should be gathered from notable specialists in the field, including Dr. Frank Browne, MKL's Lake Management consultant.

In a recent conversation with Dr. Browne specifically on these matters, he made his views clear:

- There is *minimal risk involved in the use of glyphosate because, unlike other herbicides, it has the characteristic of very low migration in the soil and is not a threat to ground water*. He indicated that the best time to treat JK is roughly after Labor Day, as the sugars begin to go down to the root system and less robust applications of the herbicide are still likely to have significant effect. *He did not support the use of Garlon 4 Ultra.*

A separate conversation was held with the chief scientist for and Director of the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team, Dr. Mike Van Clef. He is deemed by Hazel England, senior biologist for the GSWA, as NJ's most knowledgeable person on these issues.

- Dr. Van Clef indicated that the DEP currently approves use of *glyphosate on dry land*. *And, when applied with select surfactants, it is also approved near water*, if performed by an authorized company, such as Princeton Hydro and *Solitude*, our lake management company. The operative State [document from the Strike Force](#) guides the proper herbicide treatment amounts and application approaches to JK on pages 10 and 22. More details on the actual foliar spray mix of glyphosate and surfactant for JK can be found [here](#).

Additional conversations were sought with other experts, but due to summer holidays, folks were not available.