

# Grazing, Weed Management & Riparian Buffer Zones following Tropical Storm Irene



Aerial view of Third Branch of the White River, where high water and flooding occurred with TS Irene, sweeping away nearly 5 acres of topsoil of this farm field and depositing several feet of sand and gravel carrying Japanese knotweed and other invasive species in its material.



Ground view of Japanese Knotweed emerging from the heavy sand and gravel deposits. The above photo is early May 2013, the photo below is late June. This is the riparian edge that the farmer is not allowed to let his animals graze, so the knotweed and honeysuckle are unchecked in growth.



In the areas where the animals are allowed to graze, they graze all of the invasive species; Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle, chervil and others. While it might not completely eradicate the plants, it does keep them from becoming aggressively invasive and taking over the pastures. It allows for good grasses, forbs and other pasture forages to compete, and grow, keeping the land in useful production as pasture which holds the soil in place. This state of perennial pasture is one of the most resilient in extreme weather events – wet or dry. The important piece is the correct management for the animal grazing periods. It must be kept brief, but with enough animals to have an impact, and the animals usually need some training to get them to graze on these species.



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