



US weed treatment takes root in the north west

A Reddish company is stepping up its fight against the UK's most invasive plant, Japanese knotweed, with a revolutionary new system from the US.

Stem Injection Systems (Europe), a new division of Chamber member Cityscape Design & Engineering, has struck a deal with a leading Oregon-based company to become the preferred supplier of this treatment for the whole of Europe.

If allowed to spread, Japanese knotweed can quickly infest entire areas of vegetation, creating major problems for many local authorities, landowners and developers.

The new system works by delivering a measured dose of herbicide into the centre of the plant rather than just to the surface. This means it targets only the plants injected and there is no environmental risk of spray drift, run-off or water contamination. With training, the system is extremely easy to use by anyone qualified in the use of herbicides and reduces treatment times over conventional spraying by up to five times.

David Layland, who set up Cityscape Design & Engineering in 2005 with partner Richard Podmore, said: "This is the first time this treatment method has been available outside the United States and we've already had enormous interest from a number of commercial organisations and local authorities including Stockport MBC which has just bought a couple of the systems for use on local sites."

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