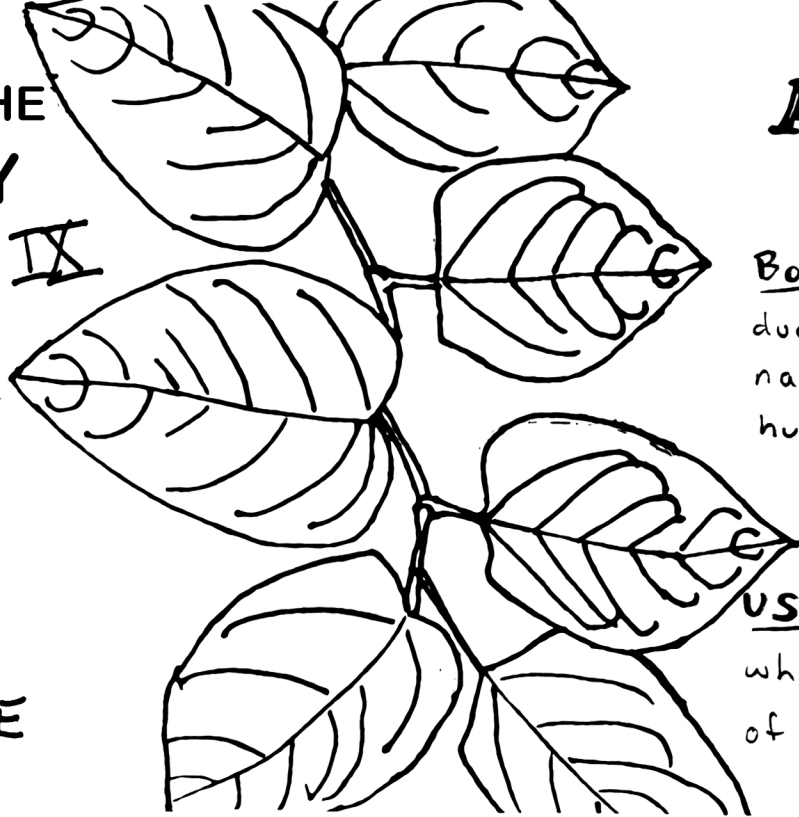


BEYOND THE BINARY



LOADED
LANGUAGE



ALIEN

Botany: a plant introduced outside its natural range through human activity.

US Law: any person who is not a citizen of the United States.

INVADER

Botany: an alien species spreading beyond its point of introduction.

Common Usage: a person or army that enters by force, without permission.

NATIVE

Botany: a plant that evolved in a place.

Common Usage:

A person born in a place.

Legal/Historical:

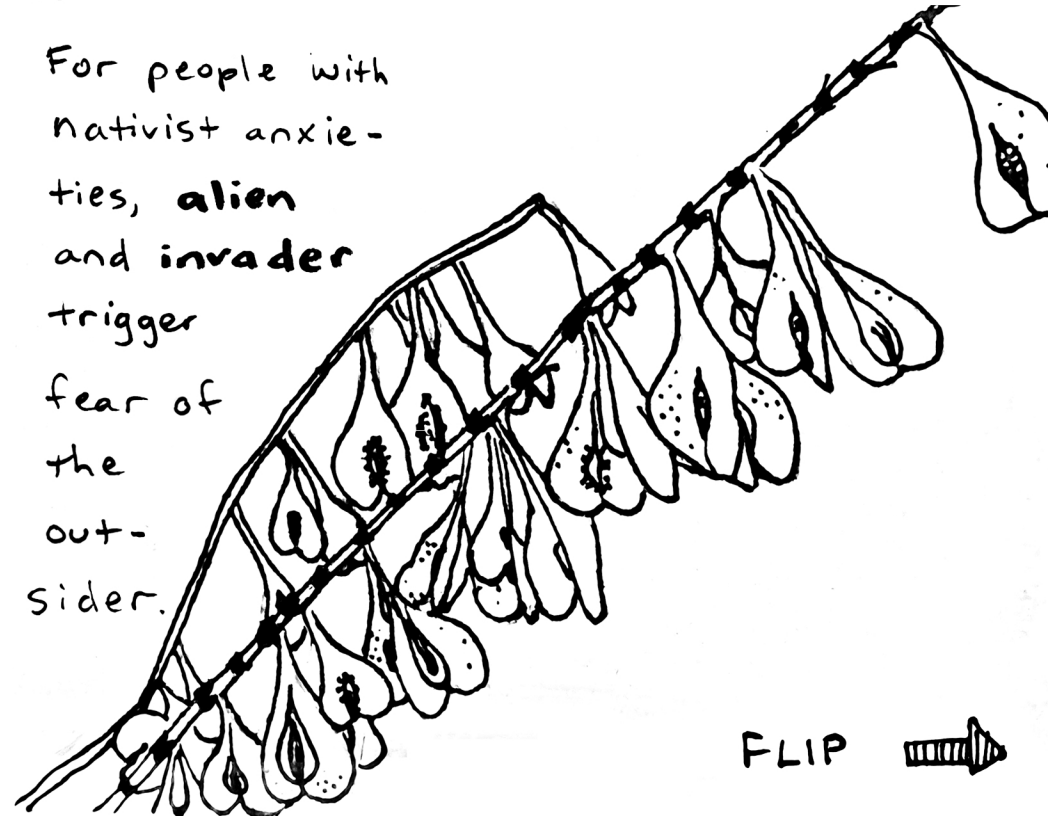
a colonial term for occupied peoples.

COLONIZER

Botany: a plant that spreads rapidly into new or disturbed territory.

History: a person or power that seizes and controls other people's land.

For people with nativist anxieties, **alien** and **invader** trigger fear of the outsider.



FLIP

Japanese knotweed
feeds pollinators
and remediates
contaminated land.

Once established,
it is nearly impos-
sible to remove
without enormous,
sustained
resources.

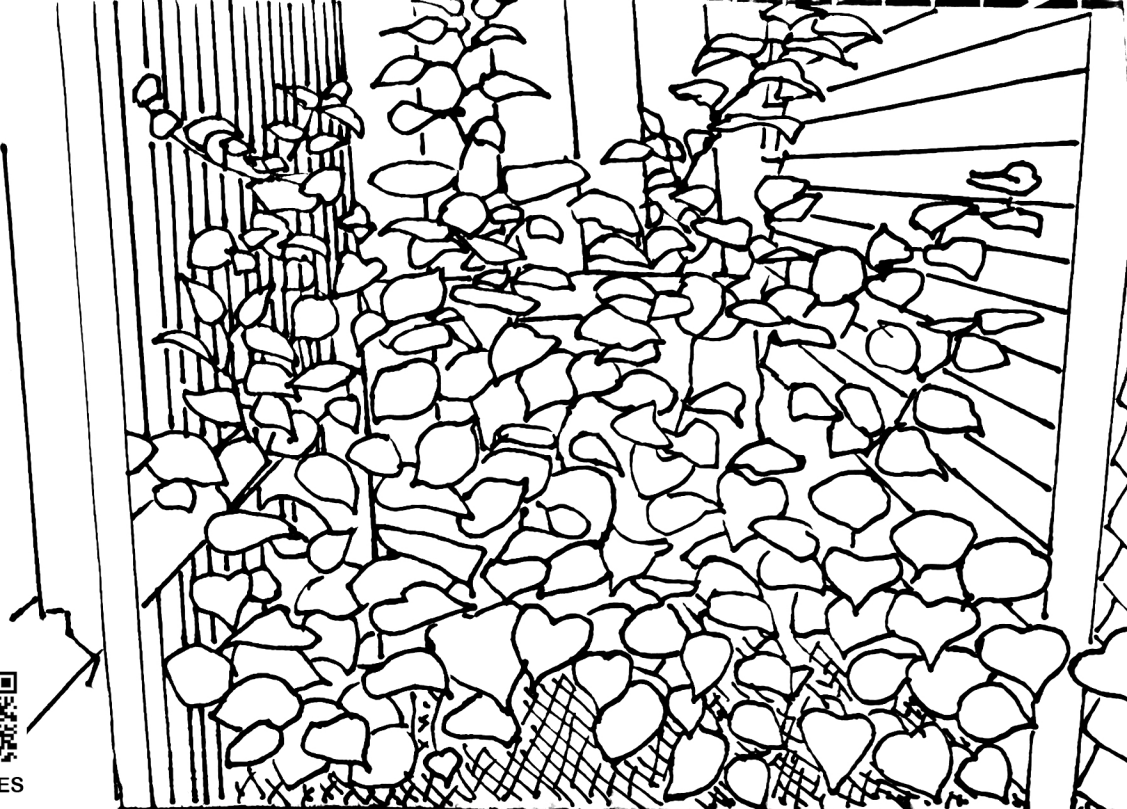
It's understandable
why you wouldn't
want it in your
garden, but in
brownfields, on
damaged riverbanks
and ruderal eco-
systems, knot-
weed is earn-
ing its place.



2026



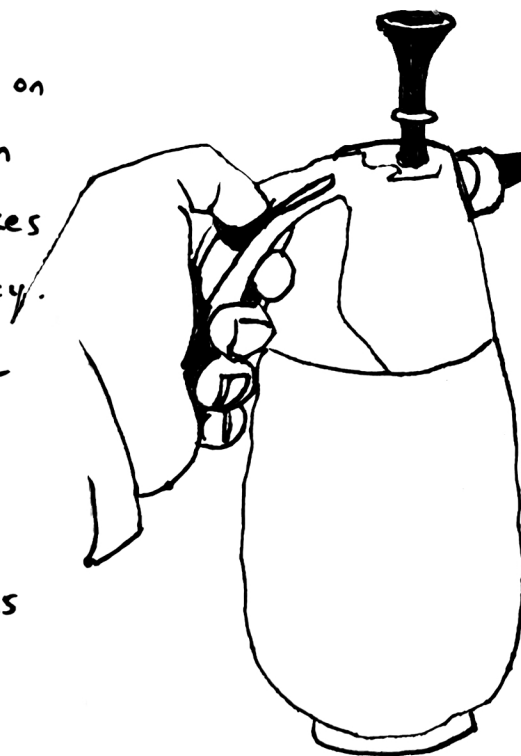
SOURCES



For people with anti-
colonial politics, **inva-
der** and **colonizer**
carry the weight
of historical violence.

Native becomes
the victim to be
defended at all
costs.

This language works on
almost everyone. In
both cases, it evokes
a moral emergency.
Eradication of "in-
vasive" species
feels urgent, and
not doing so feels
like failure.



That urgency
obscures what
actually
matters: the
specific
contexts of
individual
plants.