

## Control Measures:

Himalayan Balsam regrows annually from the seeds which are viable for 2 years therefore any control efforts must be carried out before the seed pods are produced around July - August. The species has the ability to regrow from the lowest node in the same season therefore control efforts need to remove the plant and root system or ensure to cut below the lowest node.

Current recommended control method include:

- **Hand Pulling** - remove individual plants by hand ensure to remove the whole plant and root system. Alternately you can use cutting machines such as strimmer's, ensure to cut below the lowest node to prevent regrowth.
- **Herbicides treatments**—glyphosate can be applied via foliar for large dense swards and via weed wiper . You need a Aqherb01 licence and an agreement must be obtained from the local Environment Agency office before application



## WE NEED YOU HELP!

Himalayan Balsam grows quickly and dominates river banks and wet habitats threatening native species and eroding riverbanks which is why we need your help! Together we can control the spread for the non-native invasive species for the benefit of the wildlife and all river users.

**Find your local Balsam Bash and help conserve you local wildlife on free fun volunteer session outdoors in nature.**

Hand pulling is a simple and effective activity as the species has a shallow root system which is easily removed with a gentle tug. Make sure to remove all of the plant and roots, and leave the roots in the air away in the drying out in the air. \*Make sure to follow biosecurity safety measures.

If you spot any Himalayan Balsam and are unable to remove it please be report to it to the non-native species recording app for the Colne Valley: [cvfc.org.uk/nnis](http://cvfc.org.uk/nnis). This will help create a map of floating pennywort populations across the Colne Valley and direct action to prevent its spread.

For further information on the species take a look below at the ColneCAN for local information and the GB non-native species secretariat website for national information.

**Help protect our waterways.**

CLEAN

CHECK

DRY

# Himalayan Balsam

*Impatiens glandulifera*

A non-native invasive species damaging aquatic environments across the UK

[www.colnecan.org.uk](http://www.colnecan.org.uk)

[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

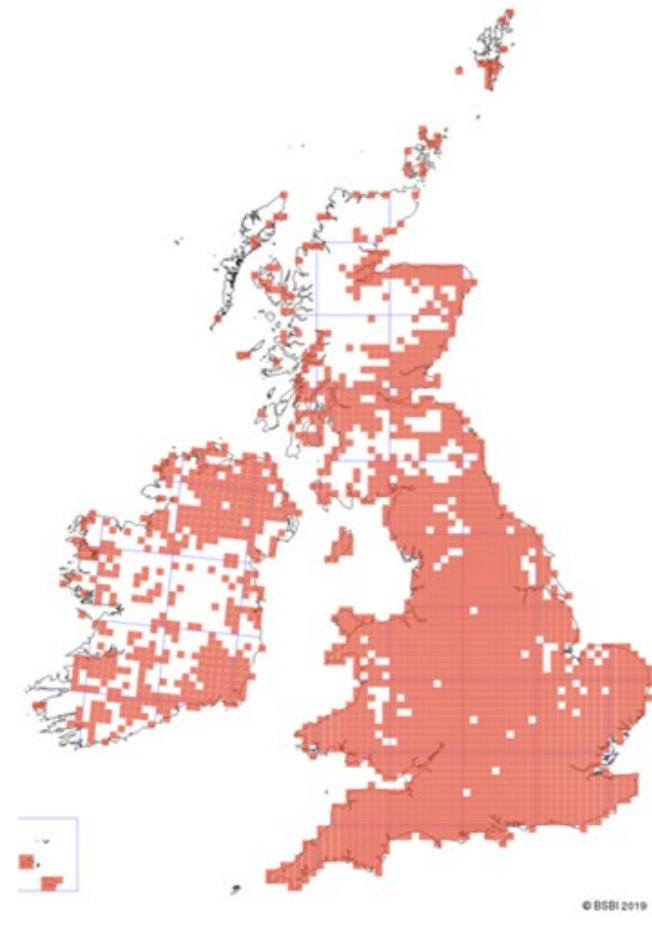


[www.colnecan.org.uk](http://www.colnecan.org.uk)





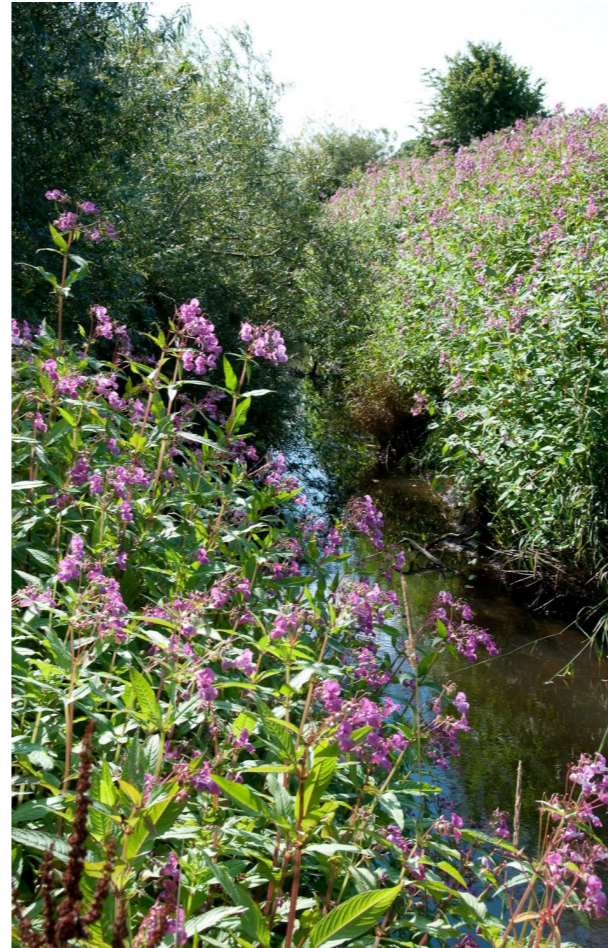
# Himalayan Balsam



## Species Description

Himalayan Balsam is a native species to the western Himalayas in North India. It was introduced to the UK in 1839 for ornamental purposes but escaped from gardens and became naturalised in Britain 1850s. It rapidly colonises the river banks and areas of damp ground at the rate of spread of 645km<sup>2</sup> annually with seeds viable up to two years. The species is now well established across the United Kingdom, as illustrated on the left.

The species grows in dense thickets along river banks, damp areas and wet woodlands. Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds which can be ejected up to 7m from the plant and spread along watercourses. The species dominates wet habitats suppressing the growth of native plant species and dies back in autumn leaving riverbanks bare throughout winter increasing riverbank erosion.



## Affect on Aquatic Environment and River Users

Himalayan Balsam's spreads widely and grows quickly enabling colonisation of vast sections of riverbanks and wet habitats. Their seeds are viable up to 2 years and spread easily by water. The plant dominates these habitats outcompeting native plant, increasing winter riverbank erosion and spoils riverside aesthetics. Furthermore Himalayan Balsam negative effects the native aquatic habitats degrading them in the following ways.

- Large dense populations reduce available light and space on the riverbank outcompeting native plant species. This leads to a less diverse plant community resulting in habitat degradation.
- In autumn the plants die back leaving riverbanks bare increasing riverbank erosion. This results in siltation of the river bed losing of vital fish spawning habitat and aquatic invertebrate habitat.
- The plant produces high amounts of nectar attracting local pollinators to the Himalayan Balsam possibly to the detriment of other native flowering plants.

## Key Identification Features



### Seeds

Elongated exploding seed pods from July to August up to 800 seeds per plant.



### Roots

Shallow fleshy root system.



### Stem

Hollow, sappy, and brittle stems. Grow up to 3m high. Green to red.



### Flowers

Large pinkish flowers from June to August. Slipper shaped flowers with a helmeted upper petal and short spur (2.5-4cm)



### Leaves

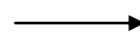
Green large narrow leaves with serrate edges. Up to 15cm long. Grow on stem in whorls of three.



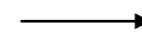
## BIOSECURITY

Human footfall and boats can carry Himalayan Balsam upstream and into other watercourses spreading the invasive species. Biosecurity is extremely important to prevent cross contamination of water bodies. Make sure to check any equipment and your boat to remove any Himalayan Balsam attached and dry where possible.

CHECK



CLEAN



DRY

