









Himalayan Balsam

Key Identification Features

			
Seeds	Leaves		
Elongated exploding seed pods produced from July to August. Up to 800 seeds per plant on average.	Green large narrow leaves with serrate edges. Grow up 15cm long. Grow on stem in whorls of three.		
			
Flowers	Roots	Stem	
Pink flowers from June to August. Slipper shaped flowers with a helmeted upper petal and short spur (2.5-4cm)	Shallow fleshy root system.	Hollow, sappy, and brittle stems. Grow up to 3m high. Green to red.	

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Himalayan Balsam may be a beautiful plant but it is wreaking havoc on our native habitats and species. 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 volunteer group and help conserve wildlife on fun volunteer sessions on your doorstep.

Report any sightings of Himalayan Balsam to a free online recording application for Colne Valley and help map the spread of the species.
cvfc.org.uk/nnis

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

www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

www.colnecan.org.uk

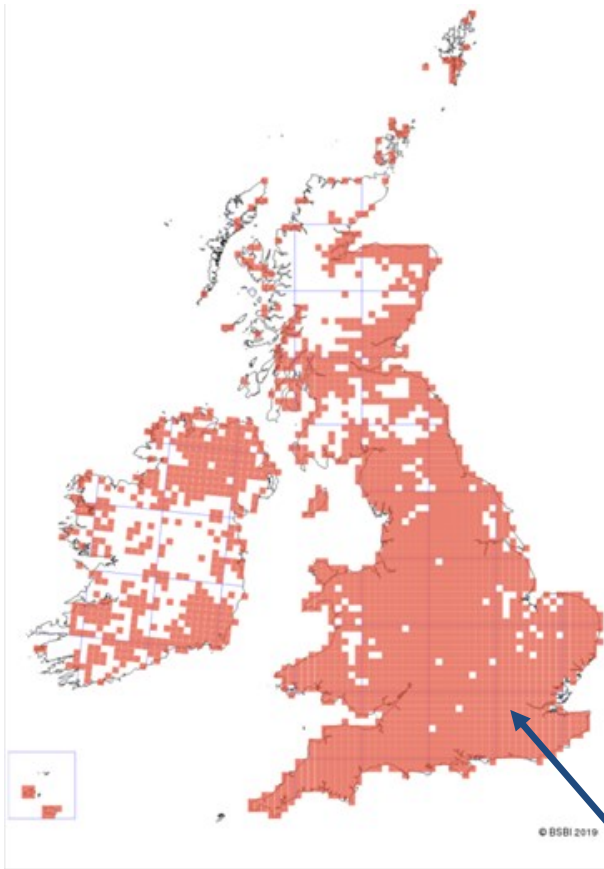
www.nonnativespecies.org



A Non-Native Invasive Species

wrecking riverbanks near you!

National Distribution



Species Description

Origin: Native species to the western Himalayans in North India.

Latin: *Impatiens glandulifera*

Introduction: in 1839 for ornamental purposes. naturalised in the UK wild spaces in 1850s.

Habitat: thrives along river banks, damp areas and wet woodlands

Reproduction: the plant is pollinated by insects. The seeds are widely spread along watercourses, attached to animals and humans

Appearance: the plants grow in large swards up to 3 meters tall. The flowers range from dark pink to light pink and white.

Distribution: well established in the UK along rivers and wet woodlands, even local gardens too. In the Colne Valley the species is common along the watercourses.

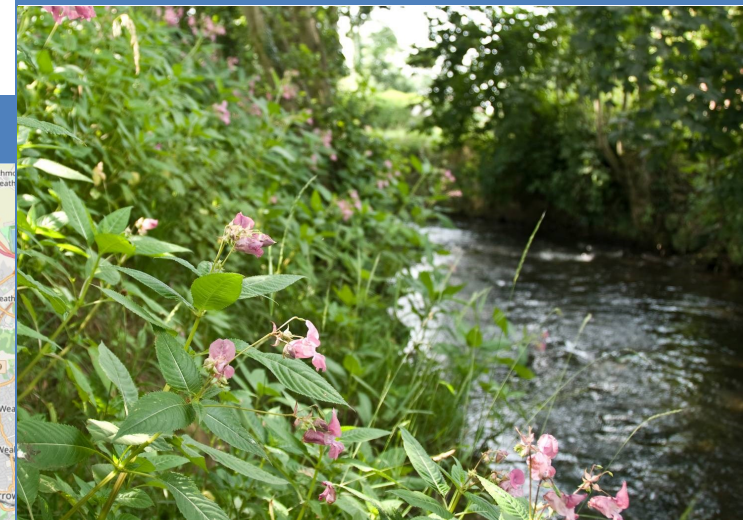
Impact on Environment



Himalayan Balsam is listed under Schedule 9 in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, deeming it an offence to plant, spread or cause this species to grow in the wild. The plant spreads widely at the rate of spread of 645km² annually. It grows quickly so colonising and dominating vast sections of riverbanks and wet habitats. Impacts include:

- Large dense populations shade and outcompete native plants degrading the habitat.
- Reduces diversity of plant and animal life.
- In autumn the plants die back leaving bare riverbanks leading to increased erosion.
- Increased siltation of the river bed loses vital fish spawning and aquatic invertebrate habitats.
- The plant's high nectar levels attract local pollinators possibly negatively affecting native species.

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 so efforts need to remove the plant and root system or cut below the lowest node. Current control methods are listed below:

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 an Aqherb01 licence and an agreement from the local Environment Agency before application.

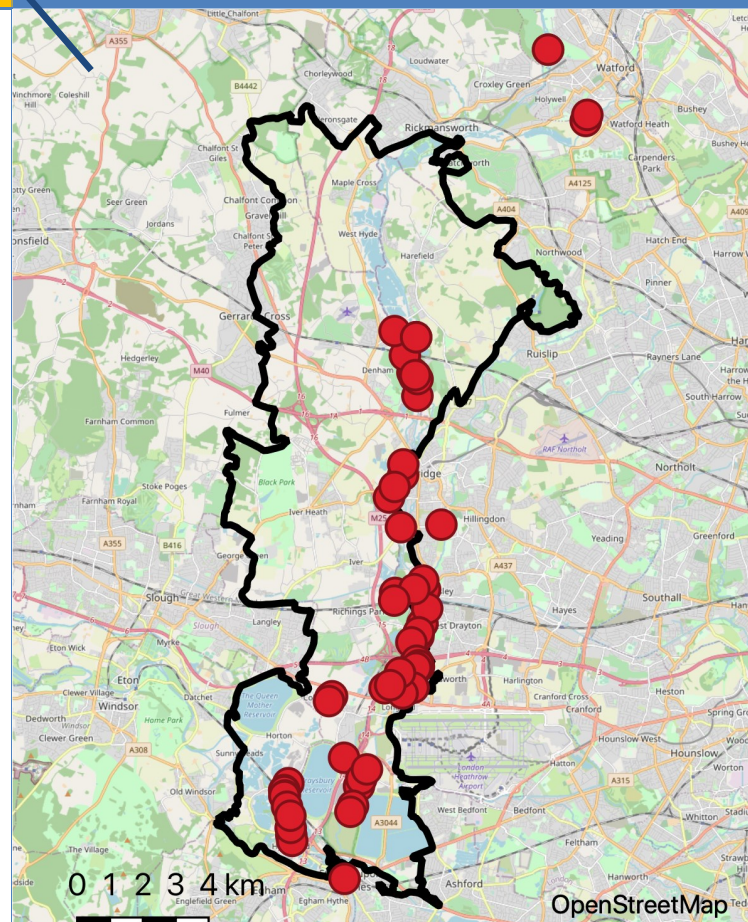
BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is extremely important to prevent the spread of the species. Himalayan Balsam seeds are buoyant and viable for two years which are easily spread via watercourses and by attaching to wildlife and humans.



Make sure to **check** your clothes and any equipment to remove any Himalayan Balsam, **clean** the items then **dry** to prevent the spread.

Local Distribution



Photos sourced from GBNNSS

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

STOP THE SPREAD