BALSAM

ISSUES...

Himalayan balsam is a non-native, highly invasive plant introduced from the western Himalayas. An escapee from gardens it is now widespread and is typically found on river banks, in hedgerows, woodlands, verges and grasslands.

How and Why it's a problem:

- Long growing season from May to October
- Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds
- Explosive seed capsules spread seeds up to 2m
- Rapidly forms vast, tall dense masses of plants
- Smothers and excludes native species
- Deters pollinators from native species
- After die back, exposes bare soil to risk of erosion and loss of land

LEGAL STATUS AND LANDOWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Himalayan balsam is listed under the EU Invasive Alien Species of Concern and Schedule 9 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England and Wales.

What does this mean for you?

As a landowner, you have a legal responsibility to manage, control and where possible eradicate this species from your land and not allow it to spread in to the wild.



AMERICAN SKUNK CABBAGE





For advice and support on the control of Himalayan balsam and other freshwater invasive non-native species please contact:

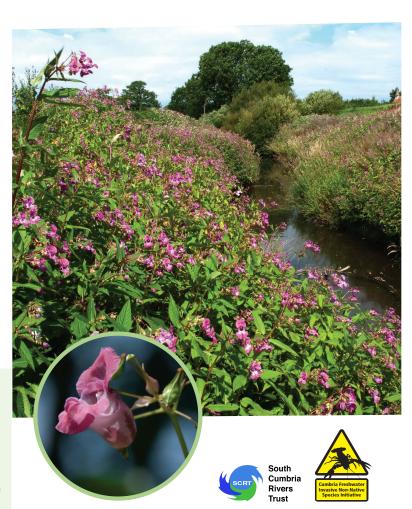
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HIMALAYAN BALSAM

ADVICE FOR LANDOWNERS



Identification:

FLOWERS

- Purplish-pink to pale pink
- Slipper-shaped on long stalks
- Flowers: JUNE OCTOBER
- Seeds: JULY OCTOBER



- Spear-shaped with serrated edges
- Shiny and dark
- Up to 15cm long



STEM

- Pinky-red colour
- Smooth (no hairs)
- Up to 2.5m tall
- Stem has nodes (notch), including bottom node at ground level
- · Hollow and jointed
- Snappy and brittle



What can I do?

Active control is simple and effective, but requires commitment.

Aim:

the setting of seeds. (Flowering / seeding times may vary depending on the weather.)

When to tackle it?

This plant spreads by seed. Seeds continue to germinate throughout the season so it is essential to repeat the control later in the season. Seeds can lie dormant in the soil for up to 3 years.

- First treatment early in the season JUNE
- **AUGUST** and **SEPTEMBER**

To prevent the plant flowering, or at least prevent

On-going management

Maintenance of a dense sward of grass will help to suppress germination of seeds.

Where possible, re-seed area after control.

- Repeat treatments to capture late germination
- REPEAT treatment for a minimum of 3 YEARS

WARNING

DO NOT UNDERTAKE ANY **CONTROL ONCE SEED** CAPSULES ARE EXPLODING





Manual control

- Mechanical Mow or strim at ground level below the bottom node to prevent recovery and regrowth
- By hand It is easily pulled. Ensure stem is broken below bottom node to prevent it re-rooting.

Chemical control

Glyphosate herbicides will remove the plant.



When spraying next to a water course you will require:

- An Environment Agency AQUAHERB permit
- A PA6AW spray certificate
- Aquatic approved herbicide

Grazing / stock control

Introduce grazing and trampling early in the season when seeds are germinating and the plants are tender and sweet. This is useful for fenced off river banks.