






HAVE YOU SEEN THESE INVASIVE PLANTS?

<p>1. Japanese Knotweed</p> 	<p><i>What does it look like?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall vigorous plant growing up to 2m in height and forms dense thickets. • The plants grow between May and October, and dies back in November. • The leaves are heart shaped and pale green, 10-15cm long. • Plant stems are hollow and bamboo-like, with purple / red flecks. • The stems are also zig-zag in shape • The flowers appear in September/October, are small and white in colour. <p><i>Why is it a problem?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can cause damage to buildings, hard surfaces, drainage systems and other infrastructure. • Forms dense colonies and suppresses our native plants. • Can cause flooding by blocking streams and watercourses. • Regenerates from fragments of rhizome (roots) and stem sections dispersed by transporting contaminated soil and by water. • The plant can only be disposed of at licenced landfill sites as it is classed as 'Controlled waste'.
<p>2. Himalayan Balsam</p> 	<p><i>What does it look like?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall plant growing to a height of 2m. • The plants grow between May and September, dying back in October. • The leaves are slender and thin, 6 to 15cm long. • Plant stems are thin and hollow. • The flowers are pink in colour, are trumpet shaped and appear in July. • The plant tends to grow on river banks and damp areas. <p><i>Why is it a problem?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plants grow quickly and forms dense colonies. • Erode river banks and causes flooding. • Outcompetes and suppresses our native plants.
<p>3. Giant Hogweed</p> 	<p><i>What does it look like?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very large tall plant growing to a height of 5m. • Hollow stems that are green with purple specs. • The stems have sharp hairy spikes • The leaves are light green, very large (2.5m wide) and have spines underneath. • The flower head is also large (this is a large plant!), umbrella shaped and can be 80cm across. • The flowers are very small and white in colour. • The plant flowers in or around July. • The plant tends to grow on river banks and the edges of ponds. <p><i>Why is it a problem?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sap (from cutting, strimming or touching the spikes) is very dangerous and can cause severe burns and blistering of the skin. • Causes erosion of river banks and flooding of water courses. • Outcompetes and suppresses our native plants.
<p>4. Russian Vine</p> 	<p><i>What does it look like?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast growing scrambling vine. • Forms a dense mat that covers other plants, trees, hedges, fences and other structures. • The stems are green-reddish in colour. • Leaves are light green 3-6cm long and 4cm wide, are triangular shaped with wavy edges. • The flowers are small, white (turning pink) and tend to grow in October. <p><i>Why is it a problem?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can overwhelm and kill other native plants such as trees and shrubs. • Can damage structures such as fences, sheds and other buildings,. • Will grow anywhere and is difficult to remove. • Outcompetes and suppresses our native plants
<p>5. Ragwort</p> 	<p><i>What does it look like?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very common plant that grows during late spring and summer. • Grows to a height of 50-75cm. • The leaves are green and stalky. • The flowers are bright yellow and appear in June/July. • Tends to grow on highway verges where speed of cars can spread the seeds along the verge corridor. • Can also grow on grassland. Agriculture land and derelict areas. <p><i>Why is it a problem?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is poisonous to livestock (horses and cattle) when cut, dried and mixed with hay. • Easily spread throughout a site. • Non-native species outcompetes and suppresses our native plants

If you come across any of these, or any other plants you are not sure about please report them to:

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