

Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre
Solway Heritage
7 Church Crescent
Dumfries
DG1 1DF

Contacts

Nith District Salmon Fisheries Board

River Nith INNS
Project Officer
37 George Street
Dumfries. DG1 1EB
invasives@river-nith.com
01387 740043

Annan District Salmon Fisheries Board

River Annan INNS
Project Officer
Fisheries Office, St Ann's
Lockerbie. DG11 1HQ
invasives@annanfishery
board.co.uk
01576 470600

Galloway Fisheries Trust

Fisheries House
Station Industrial Estate
Newton Stewart
DG8 6ND
mail@gallowayfisheries
trust.org
01671 403011

Or if you know where one of these three species is growing and would like to report its location please contact Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre by filling in the card attached to this leaflet and sending it to the given address.

Further Information

- SEPA can be contacted for information on regulatory requirements before transporting or disposing of Japanese Knotweed.
- www.netregs.gov.uk provides advice on disposal of plant material.
- Spraying should only be carried out by suitably qualified personnel.
- Even if eradication of the invasive plant looks to have been achieved, areas need to be re-checked annually for re-growth and treated accordingly.
- www.invasivespeciesscotland.org.uk and www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/environment/wildlife-habitats/invasivespecies for information on other invasive species

Contact for Advice on Spraying in or near water:
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Rivers House, Irongray Road, Dumfries, DG2 0JE. Tel 01387 720502



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

River Invasive Plants

NON-NATIVE SPECIES PROJECT

Giant Hogweed

Image © Gerard M



Japanese Knotweed

Image © Solway Heritage



Himalayan Balsam

Image © Robert Smith



Non-native plants from around the world have historically been brought into Scotland for botanical garden collections and accidentally imported with other goods.

Although many introduced plants don't cope well with the Scottish climate, there are a few, namely Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed, which have aggressively colonised many areas of Dumfries and Galloway. These species often spread along watercourses, roadsides and hedgerows and have proved very difficult to control. They threaten biodiversity by competing with native plants for light and water, can cause erosion of river banks and, in the case of Giant Hogweed, can cause physical harm.

The Project

The Dumfries and Galloway Riparian Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) project was set up by a partnership group. SEPA's Catchment Management Initiative, the River Nith District Salmon Fishery Board, the River Annan District Salmon Fishery Board and Solway Heritage have worked together to map the extent of the spread of invasive species in the river catchments. The next stage was to start this project which aims to tackle the spread of Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed on a river catchment scale across the Rivers Nith and Annan to reduce their extent on the local environment.

Two project officers, one covering the River Nith catchment and one covering the River Annan catchment, have been employed to raise awareness and understanding of the issues surrounding INNS, to provide information and advice to landowners, land managers and the general public and to provide a point of contact for the public to provide advice and report INNS. If you would like more information on the project or would like one of the project officers to come and talk to your group contact the relevant Officer for your catchment. Galloway Fisheries Trust is co-ordinating the control of Riparian INNS on the Water of App and the rivers Fleet, Luce, Bladnoch, Cree, Dee and Urr.

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Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*

IDENTIFICATION

- Stems, green with red or purple specks, growing up to 2-3m tall in dense cane-like clumps.
- Shield or heart-shaped green leaves up to 120mm long, with a flat base.
- Creamy clusters of flowers borne on the tips of most stems from August – October.
- Roots consist of rhizomes which are orange when cut, can reach 7m from the parent plant and can be up to 3m deep.



Image © KENPIE

Japanese Knotweed

Best Methods of Control

- Spraying with a commercial glyphosate-based chemical is effective on Japanese Knotweed. Spraying needs to take place at least twice during the growing season, once the plant is fully in leaf but before flowering. Over a period of 5-7 years the plant will be controlled although eradication is unlikely. The area needs to be checked annually to treat small areas that may have re-sprouted.
- Grazing will suppress growth but cannot completely eradicate the plant.

Do's & Don'ts

- Never throw away or fly tip plant material or soil – under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence "to plant or otherwise encourage in the wild" the growth of Japanese Knotweed.
- Avoid strimming, flailing, mowing or chipping Japanese Knotweed - pieces of stem as small as a fingernail can grow into new plants.
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) must be contacted before using chemicals in or near water.
- Removal of plant material off site must be undertaken by a licenced carrier.

Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

IDENTIFICATION

- Stems hollow, green with dark-red or purple blotches and growing up to 5m tall.
- Leaves are dark green in a rosette with a jagged appearance and spiky at the ends. The lower leaves can be up to 1.5m long.
- Flowers are white with several hundred in large umbrella-like flower heads up to 500mm across, appearing from June – July.
- Each flower head produces up to 50,000 seeds that are easily dispersed by water and can remain viable for up to 15 years.



Image © Lorne Gill, SNH

Giant Hogweed

Best Methods of Control

- Spraying with a commercial glyphosate-based chemical is effective on Giant Hogweed. The plant needs to be sprayed once the leaves are fully out but before flowering. Any re-growth can be sprayed later in the season. The plant should be controlled in 2-3 years, but will need future checking for any newly germinating seeds.
- Cutting stems before the plant flowers and sets seed is effective on Giant Hogweed with eradication being achieved in 2 -3 years. This should only be undertaken by a qualified person
- Giant Hogweed can be disposed of by burning.

Do's & Don'ts

- Never throw away or fly tip plant material or soil – under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence "to plant or otherwise encourage in the wild" the growth of Giant Hogweed.
- Giant Hogweed should not be touched without protective clothing as contact with the sap can produce a painful skin condition.
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) must be contacted before using chemicals in or near water.
- Be careful not to transport seeds to new sites.
- Removal of plant material off site must be undertaken by a licenced carrier.

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

IDENTIFICATION

- Stems are hollow and jointed, sappy and brittle, a pinky-red colour. Plants grow up to 3m tall, being the tallest annual plant in Britain.
- Leaves are spear-shaped, with serrated edges, shiny and dark green with a dark red midrib. They are up to 150mm long and are opposite or in whorls of three.
- Flowers are slipper-shaped on long stalks, are purplish-pink to pale pink and flower from June - October.
- Seeds are white, brown or black, produced from July- October with 4 - 16 per pod and can remain viable in soil for 2 to 3 years.



Image © Robert Smith

Himalayan Balsam

Best Methods of Control

- Spraying with a commercial glyphosate-based chemical is effective with Himalayan Balsam being controlled in 2-3 years. The plant should be sprayed when the leaves are fully out but before flowering. Any re-growth can be sprayed later in the season.
- Cutting stems or pulling with roots before the plant flowers and sets seed is successful. Grazing is an efficient way of controlling Himalayan Balsam.
- Himalayan Balsam can be disposed of by leaving the plants to dry out on site or by burning.

Do's & Don'ts

- Never throw away or fly tip plant material or soil – under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence "to plant or otherwise encourage in the wild" the growth of Himalayan Balsam.
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) must be contacted before using chemicals in or near water.
- Take care not to touch the plant as the seed pods will explode
- Be careful not to transport seeds to new sites.
- Removal of plant material off site must be undertaken by a licenced carrier.

What to do now?

Send us details of your invasive species sighting by completing this form.

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

Invasive Species Sightings

Date

Species

Location

Grid Ref (or Postcode)

Approx. number of plants / area

Comment

Information submitted on this form will be collated and disseminated manually or electronically and used for environmental decision-making, education, research and other public benefit uses. Your name forms an integral part of the record you submit. We ask for your contact details in case we need more information about your record and this information may be stored on computer. Your name (but no other details) may be passed to third parties with your record. If you object to your personal details being retained, please contact the DGERC, although please note this will limit the usefulness of the information provided.