New Forest
Non-Native Plants Project
Partnership Project

Environment Agency

Forestry Commission England

The Wildlife Trusts

Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Natural England

New Forest National Park

defra

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Himalayan balsam
Giant hogweed
Japanese knotweed
New Zealand pygmyweed
American skunk cabbage
Creeping water primrose
Parrot’s feather
Launch on 22 May 2009

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

22 MAY 2009

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

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Publicity

- Waging war on foreign invaders
- Battling to beat Forest invaders
- Weeding out alien species
- Forest fight-back against plant invaders targets root cause
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project – a strong partnership approach
Contact with land owners & managers
Work by contractors
Parrot’s feather at Hincheslea
Creeping water primrose at Breamore Marsh
Volunteer activity
Volunteers of all ages!
Links with schools and colleges

- Brockenhurst College
- Sparsholt College
Links with Universities
Distribution mapping
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Help in the battle to tackle these New Forest invaders by telling us where you see these plants

The Project is a joint partnership between Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Defra and the New Forest National Park Authority. The New Forest National Park Authority is contributing financially through core funds and the Authority’s Sustainable Development Fund.

www.hwt.org.uk  Protecting wildlife, Inspiring people
New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project was set up in 2009 to control the spread of five invasive non-native plants:

- Japanese knotweed
- Himalayan balsam
- Giant hogweed
- American skunk cabbage
- New Zealand pygmyweed

Images of Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and American skunk cabbage provided by Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat; image of New Zealand pygmyweed provided by Peter Llewellyn.
Raising awareness
Himalayan Balsam

Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Impatiens glandulifera*  
**AKA:** Policeman’s Helmet, Indian Balsam, Jacky Neidwr (Welsh)  
**Native to:** West and central Himalayas  
**Habitat:** Found mostly on river banks and in damp woodland, can grow in other damp habitat

A tall, attractive, annual herb with explosive seedheads. Although easy to identify as a mature plant with its pink-purple flowers, fleshy stem and characteristic leaves, the seedlings and last year’s dead stems of this annual are more difficult to spot.

Introduced as a garden plant in the early 19th century and first recorded in the wild in 1855. Often favoured by the general public for its aesthetic appeal and is still deliberately planted on occasion. Now widespread in the UK, especially along urban rivers. Spreads solely by seeds, which are small and easily carried by wind or water.

Outcompetes native species in ecologically sensitive areas, particularly river banks. Where it grows in dense stands along river banks, it can impede flow at times of high rainfall, increasing the likelihood of flooding. The bank of extensive stands over winter can leave river banks bare and exposed to erosion.

For details of legislation relating to non-native species please see: http://www.nonnativespecies.org/97_Legislation.com

Key ID Features

- **Trumpet shape with wide petals**
- **Sweety scented**
- **Pink, rarely white, often with spots and markings inside**
- **Leaves and side branches arise from stem joints**
- **Leaves have linear serrated edges**
- **Stem is hollow, papery, fleshy and brittle**
- **Stem green to red, can be the year turning pink to red in summer**
- **Leaves may have redish tint**
- **Seeds**
- **Seed capsule, about 2.5cm long, narrow on red stalks, Eatted or tough when dry**
- **Side shoots / roots form along the stem**
- **Short roots with distinctive structure**
Photo gallery - GBNNSS
Raising awareness
Giant hogweed ‘burns’
Giant hogweed skin discolouration
Did you know
Invasive aquatic plants can damage our ponds, waterways and the environment? Find out how you can become plant wise today.

Know what you grow
Compost with care
Stop the spread

www.direct.gov.uk/beplantwise
Working together

Non-native species Local Action Group Workshop
Preston Montford January 2010
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