



Communications and awareness raising

Lucy Cornwell
GB Non-native Species Secretariat



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



The Scottish
Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

INNS awareness raising campaigns

**CHECK
CLEAN
DRY**



**INVASIVE
SPECIES
WEEK**

15-21 May 2023

nonnativespecies.org/invasivespeciesweek

Be Plant Wise

- Ornamental plants
- Guidance for gardeners on responsible management of plants
- Website and materials for retailers and supporters



Invasive plants in your garden

Last edited: Jan 11, 2023, 4:37 PM

Controlling invasive plants in your garden

If you have an invasive plant in your garden that you want to control or remove, the following links provide useful information on identifying invasive plants and options for managing them:

- [Identification guides](#) for a number of invasive plants
- [Guidance on management of common invasive plants](#)

Disposing of invasive non-native plants from your garden

You should make sure nothing you remove from your garden, pond or aquarium gets into the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does. Never dump any garden waste beyond your garden boundary.

- Find out more about [restrictions on invasive non-native plants](#)

Most plants can be composted at home but some require an alternative disposal method, find out more below.

Composting at home

Most non-native ornamental plants can be composted at home, but some do not properly decompose in small scale composting (such as cold composting at home) and may regrow. The table below contains guidance on species to look out for and how to dispose of them. You may wish to avoid growing these species in your garden.

Hot composting systems which operate at a higher temperature killing most seeds and roots can be bought or created at home and are likely to be more effective at breaking down invasive non-native plants. Research good composting practice to reduce the risk of regrowth/survival.

Most of the species which are unsuitable for composting can be disposed of in your green waste collection as they will be broken down by the heat generated during large scale composting. They can also be disposed of by burning to avoid regrowth.

Non-native plants that should not be composted at home

Species	Part of plant	Do not compost at home in cold compost	Can be put in green bin	Requires specific treatment at home
Acaena spp. (Piri-piri bur)	Seeds	X	X	
Acanthus mollis (Bear's breech)	Roots	X	X	
Alchemilla mollis (Lady's mantle)	Seed heads	X	X	

Guide to gardening without invasive plants

- Over 160 species: terrestrial and aquatic
- Guides for gardeners, landscapers, and pond owners



Adverts and events



WHEN ELEGANCE MATTERS, CHOOSE DURAPOST®

For a fence that completes your vision for your garden, look no further than DuraPost®. Four colourways to suit your outdoor space, built from premium quality steel for maximum durability with no need for maintenance - there's truly no other fence like it.

DuraPost®: Fencing without boundaries.

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Or call us on 0345 646 0391

DuraPost®
BY BIRKINGHOLE

If your plants escape beyond your garden border they can become invasive, harming our wildlife, environment and economy.

Once established, invasive plants are costly to control and the damage they cause can be irreversible. You can help protect the environment by following three simple tips:

- KNOW WHAT YOU DO**
Choose the right plants for your garden, pond, aquarium and water features
- STOP THE SPREAD**
Keep your plants in your garden - don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild
- COMPOST WITH CARE**
Dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds, and seed heads responsibly

Visit: nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise for further tips



Be Plant Wise

Plants are vital to our world, but the wrong plant in the wrong place can do more harm than good. Read on to find out why - and how you can help

Growing non-native species in your garden allows you to create beautiful, ornamental displays that make sitting in our outdoor spaces such a joy. But did you know that if these plants escape into the wild, some may harm our wildlife and environment, and even our economy and health?

Invasive varieties, as these plants are known, can damage native flora by spreading pests and diseases, as well as competing for space, light, nutrients and water. This can have a wider impact on other species too, including birds and butterflies, and could even threaten the survival of rare plants. The good news is, you can play your part in curbing the spread of invasive non-native species. All you have to do is Be Plant Wise.

DISCOVER MORE



HOW TO HELP



Know what you grow: choose the right plants for your garden, pond, aquarium, and water features.



Stop the spread: keep your plants in your garden - don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild.



Compost with care: dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds and seed heads responsibly.

Invasive plants in the wild

Have you seen these plants? Here are just a few of the invasive species that are already proving a problem across Britain:



HIMALAYAN BALSAM
Some wildlife are dependent on a single plant species. The highly endangered tansy beetle was reduced to a single population when its sole food source, the native tansy plant, became rare, partly due to competition from invasive Himalayan balsam.



RHODODENDRON
This popular garden flower can host plant disease organisms. *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae*, which are a serious threat to oak, beech and larch trees. It also spreads rapidly, outcompeting native plants.



JAPANESE KNOTWEED
This weed is extremely difficult to eradicate and can cause structural damage to roads and houses, growing through asphalt and concrete. This can lead to significant delays and costs to development, estimated at £150m a year.



Want to find out more about Britain's invasive species and how you can help protect the environment?

LEARN MORE



Google

NNSS
GB non-native species secretariat

Check Clean Dry

- Recreational water users
- Over 40 bespoke materials for different user groups
- >4000 signs

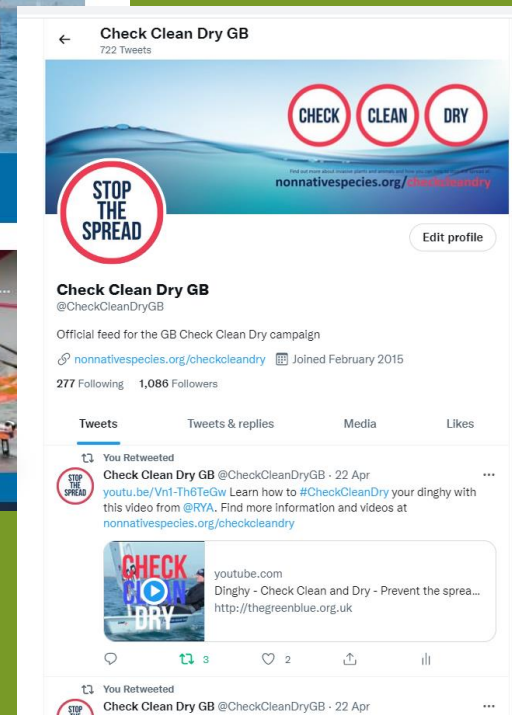


Check Clean Dry




Video guides

View handy video guides from the [RYA \(external link\)](#) and the Green Blue.



Tool to help aquatic asset managers improve biosecurity

MT.2 Pressure Washer

Biosecurity option	Pressure washer
Description and summary of efficacy	A professional pressure washer could be made available to users to clean their equipment before and after entering the water. These can be mobile systems or an external wall-mounted system could be installed. Pressure washing is effective against many INNS, including macrophyte species and the high impact species <i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i> .
Representative image (final product / design may vary)	

[sure Washers | Screwfix.com](https://www.screwfix.com) (left); Nilfisk MH 4M-100/680 [cleaningsuperstore.co.uk](https://www.cleaningsuperstore.co.uk) (centre left); <https://www.karcher-center-karcher-hds-815-e-stainless-steel-pressure-washer> (centre right); <https://www.directwatertanks.co.uk/1125-litres-3000-psi-highway-atr> (right)

and water connection may not always be available, alternative options such as cordless battery powered systems could be considered. Cordless units are limited to activity providers. Users must be given to appropriate placement, user instruction / assistance and equipment.

CapEx estimate:	£500 / unit (mobile, cold water) £3100 / unit (mobile, hot water capability) ~£4500 / unit (static, hot water capability) ~£7600 / unit (towable, cold water)
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Operational considerations	Operational considerations for specific washdown equipment (e.g. pressure washers) are
----------------------------	--

if an integrated washdown facility; to include a permanent location, running water, area of hardstanding with effective drainage, isolated from the water body by at least a soak away drain. Procedures for waste disposal.

A dedicated and positioned washdown facility could dramatically improve the uptake and ability for users to perform Check, Clean, and Dry.



Sources: <https://www.britishecology.org.uk/news/2021/new-biosecurity-facilities-in-the-south-west> (left)
<https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/know-before-you-go/biosecurity> (right)

Representative image (final product / design may vary)

Installation considerations

Washdown facilities must be well positioned, either at a pinch-point location, where users must pass through to gain entry or exit to the water, or at another prominent location. Facilities must be designed and maintained to ensure that cleaning 'workflow' is fast and effective. Drainage is critical and waste water must be isolated from the waterbody. Other capital considerations may include: taps, pipework and fittings; trestles or benches; subsidiary cleaning tools and equipment; and, electrical hook-up.

Operational considerations for specific washdown equipment (e.g. pressure washers) are

CapEx estimate:

Will vary significantly.
 Estimated between £25k - £150k

Unknown, but may be

What is possible to implement on site?

Is an electricity supply available?	Yes
If electricity infrastructure is planned or under construction, please select 'yes'.	
Is cold running water available?	No
If water infrastructure is planned or under construction, please select 'yes'.	
Is hot running water available?	Yes
If warm water infrastructure is planned or under construction, please select 'yes'.	
Is there a portable water supply?	Yes
For example, IBCs (Intermediate Bulk Containers) for cost-effective transportation and storage of water or other liquids or similar.	
Is there drainage in place?	No
If drainage infrastructure is planned or under construction, please select 'yes'. This is in relation to dedicated foul water drainage and does not include surface drainage.	

What pathway(s) are you targeting?

Paddlesport	Yes
This includes watercraft that use paddles to propel through water, e.g. kayaks, canoes, SUPs, rowing, gig boats.	
Swimming	Yes
Humans swimming from the bank or boat.	
Non-motorised watercraft	Yes
This includes wind-propelled watercraft, e.g. sailboats, sailing dinghies, windsurfing, kitesurfing, wingfoiling.	
Motorised watercraft	Yes
e.g. RIBs, powerboats, yachts.	
Angling	Yes
This includes coarse, fly and game, undertaken from the bank or boat.	
Aquatic Events	Yes
These may include events like regattas, paddling events, triathlons.	

How much funding do you have?

Capital cost	
What are the purchase and installation costs?	£15,001 - £50,000
Operational cost	
What is the cost of keeping the facility operational and maintained per year?	£101 - £1,000

What are your site conditions?

Permanent or portable?	Portable
Does the facility have a fixed location or is it mobile and able to be transported to different locations around the site or to different sites (i.e. portable)?	

Border biosecurity



Check Clean Dry – what next?

- Improving biosecurity at priority sites
- Tour operators
- Water users not affiliated with a club
- Training for event organisers and asset managers

Aquatic Biosecurity
Partnership
Funded by water
companies



Invasive Species Week: 15th - 21st May 2023

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Daily themes:

Mon: What are INNS?

Tues: How are they spread?

Weds: Why are they a problem?

Thurs: What is being done to prevent this?

Fri: What can I do?

Sat / Sun: Events and activities to take part in

[What can I do?](#) / [Invasive Species Week](#) / [Supporter page](#)

Supporter page



Invasive non-native plants and animals cause great harm to wildlife and the environment and reduce their ability to cope with climate change and habitat loss.

There are five simple things you can do to help:



If you go fishing, boating or paddling, remember to:
Check Clean Dry your clothing, footwear and equipment after leaving the water.



Be Plant Wise:
don't let your garden, pond, or aquarium plants enter the wild.



Take care of your pets, never release them or allow them to escape into the wild.
It's cruel and could harm other wildlife.



Look out for Asian hornet, a predator of honeybees which is not yet established in GB. Record your sightings of this and other alert species through iRecord



If you enjoy being outside, why not **join a Local Action Group** to help manage invasive plants.

Visit nonnativespecies.org for more information



www.nonnativespecies.org
For definitive identification, contact:
recording@nba.ac.uk

Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*)

Synonyms:

- big sluiceway crab, Chinese freshwater edible crab, Chinese mittenhanded crab, Chinese mitten-handed crab, Chinese river crab, crabe chinois, mitten crab, river crab, Shanghai crab, villos crab
- *Eriocheir japonica*, *E. leptognathus*, *E. rectus*

Consignments likely to come from: unknown

Use: may be used for human consumption

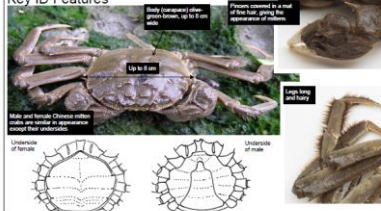
Identification difficulty: easy

Identification information:

- the only freshwater crab present in Britain
- body (carapace) olive-green-brown, up to 8cm wide
- pincers covered in a mat of fine hair resembling mittens
- legs long and hairy



Key ID Features



www.nonnativespecies.org

For definitive identification, contact:
kevin.walker@bsbi.org

American skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)

Synonyms:

- American yellow skunk cabbage, meadow cabbage, skunk cabbage, skunk weed, swamp cabbage, western skunk cabbage, yellow arum, yellow skunk cabbage, yellow skunk-cabbage

Consignments likely to come from: unknown

Use: commonly used as a garden pond plant

Identification difficulty: easy

Identification information:

- large riparian plant, grows up to 1.5m tall
- leaves grow from a basal rosette
- leaves are bright green, leathery and grow up to 1m long
- flowers consists of 1 or 2 (sometimes 4) bright yellow spathe (leaf like) up to 45cm long, surrounding a central green spadix
- emits an unpleasant odour



Key ID Features



Purple pitcher plant



Carnivorous plant with a cluster of modified tubular leaves with hooded open lids.

Leaves are green, yellow or reddish with purple veins.

The inner surface of the leaf has downward pointing hairs.

Not yet established in GB.

Favours important bog habitats and could replace the local flora.

Leaves are up to 3m wide, and sharply divided / serrated.

Flowerheads are up to 80 cm wide, umbrella shaped, and white / pinkish.

WARNING: do not touch this plant. The sap is toxic and causes blistering of the skin on exposure to sunlight.

Asian hornet



Slightly smaller than the native hornet (queen up to 3 cm long, worker up to 2.5 cm long).

Legs are yellow at the ends (dark in native hornet).

Abdomen is dark brown / black with a yellow / orange band on the 4th segment (more yellow in native hornet).

Thorax is entirely brown or black (orange in native hornet).

Never active at night.

A number of sightings have been recorded in GB since 2016 but this species is not yet established.

This species is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and a serious threat to honeybees and other pollinators.

This species can sting, do not touch.

Up to 2 m tall.

Leaves are up to 15 cm long, opposite on the stem or in whorls of 3-5.

Flowers are pink and trumpet shaped, 2.5-4 cm long.

Grows in dense stands and outcompetes native plants, also harming other species which rely on riverbanks bare and exposed to erosion.

Can block ditches and dominate ponds.

Plants growing out of the water are more robust than those growing under water.

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To get involved in managing this plant, visit nonnativespecies.org/floatingpennywort.

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American burrowing owl

Very large frog, up to 20 cm long with a cow-like call.

Ear drum has a dark outer ring and is at least as large as its eye. No ridges along the back unlike similar frogs.

Competes with, and eats, native amphibians and carries a disease that has contributed to worldwide amphibian decline.

Present at a few sites in GB but not widely established.

Occasionally escapes from captivity.

signal crayfish

Up to 16 cm long, resembles a small red / brown lobster.

Has large claws with a bright red underside and a turquoise / white blotch on the claw hinge.

Harms the native crayfish through competition and carries a crayfish plague which is deadly to the native crayfish.

Burrows into riverbanks weakening them.

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Free online training

- 9 modules
 - Introduction
 - Recording
 - Key species ID
 - Biosecurity
 - UK OTs biosecurity
 - Water industry

☰ NNSS eLearning English (en) ▾ You are not logged in. (log out)

NNSS eLearning

Welcome to the GB Non-native Species Secretariat online training website

The NNSS has developed a range of freely available e-learning modules to provide an introduction to non-native species, and how to identify them. Keep checking back for further modules in the future. If you have any problems accessing the e-learning please [contact the NNSS](#). You can find further resources on non-native species on the main [NNSS website](#).

Log in to the website


Please note, any accounts from the previous website have not been carried over to this new website. You will need to register again to access the e-learning. If you need copies of previous test scores or certificates please contact nnss@apha.gov.uk.

- If this is your first time here, you need to [register here](#) before you can enrol on a course.
- Existing users can [login here](#).

Enrol on a course

- [Find and enrol on a course here](#). Click on a course to enrol yourself.
- Once you have enrolled, your courses will be shown in the sidebar to the left.

Take e-learning



Training Coordinating Group

Improve uptake of training among priority groups:

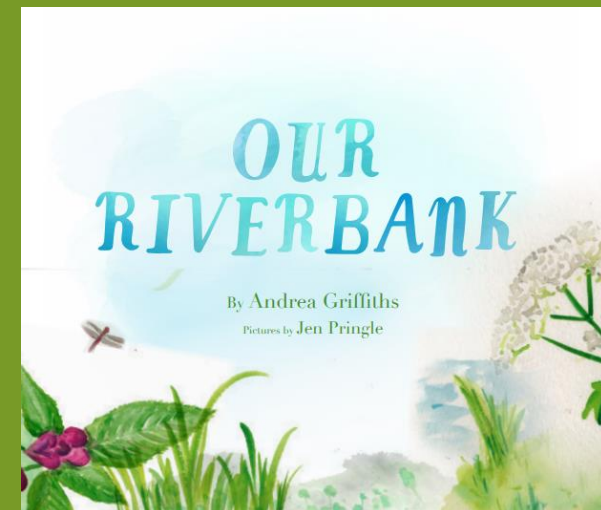
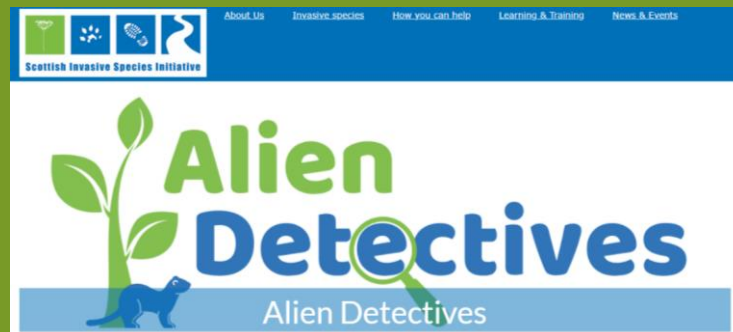
- Government field staff (and contractors)
- Stakeholder field staff
 - Environmental consultants
 - NGOs
 - University staff and students

Work with training providers

Help LAGs access appropriate training

Education Working Group

- Report with recommendations for improving non-native species education provision
- Collating and sharing existing materials
- Looking for your input



Find the information you need

Enter a non-native species name or the topic or resources you are looking for:



Popular searches

[Asian hornet](#)

[Water Primrose](#)

[ID sheets](#)

[Invasive Species Week](#)

[Local Action Groups \(LAGs\)](#)

[Floating pennywort](#)

[Be Plant Wise](#)

[Recording](#)



What are non-native species?

Learn what non-native and invasive



Species alerts!

View a list of current alert species to lookout for and record.



Record non-native species

Find information on identifying non-

News and Events feed

[Questionnaire for boaters](#)

17 May 2022

[Non-native species job](#)

13 May 2022

[Asian hornet sighting.](#)

Breakout session: Communications and engagement

Sharing good practice:

- Promoting your work
- Recruiting volunteers