

What are invasive non-native species?

Over 2000 plants and animals from all over the world have been introduced to GB by people. These are known as **non-native species**.

Most are harmless, and some are beneficial, but 10-15% cause great harm to the environment, cost the economy over £1.7 billion a year, and even harm our health. These are known as **invasive**.

How do they harm the environment?

Invasive non-native species:

- compete with native wildlife for food and habitat.
- prey on other species.
- spread pests or diseases.
- damage habitat.

They reduce the ability of wildlife to cope with other pressures including climate change and habitat loss.

See overleaf for five simple things you can do to help.

About this leaflet

The plants and animals on this side of this leaflet are examples of some of the invasive non-native species that have been introduced to GB in the past and are now well established and having a negative impact.

Once established invasive non-native species can be very difficult and costly to manage.

Overleaf are species that are not found in the wild in GB, or are present in very low numbers. These 'alert' species could have a harmful impact if they were to establish.

You can help prevent this by recording them if you spot them.

Visit nonnativespecies.org/ recording to find a full list of alert species and submit your records.

Giant hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum



Up to 5 m tall. Stem usually has sharp bristles & blotchy purple patches (sometimes completely purple).

Leaves are up to 3 m 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.

Himalayan balsam

Impatiens glandulifera



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 them. Dies back in winter leaving riverbanks bare and exposed to erosion.

Parrot's feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum



Aquatic plant which may grow under the water, or out of the water's surface.

Leaves are blue green and feather-like, arranged around the stem in groups of 4-6.

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

Can block ditches and dominate ponds.

Floating pennywort

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides



Aquatic plant with fleshy stems.

Leaves are up to 7 cm wide, shinky and kidney-shaped with a crinkled edge, usually broader than long.

Quickly forms dense mats which outcompete native plants and interfere with recreation.

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

Signal crayfish

Pacifastacus leniusculus



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.

American mink

Neovision vison



Body 30-47 cm long, with a tail that is 13-23 cm long.

Fur is glossy and dark brown / black.

Usually has white patches on chin and throat.

Predator of a range of animals including ducks, seabirds, and fish.

Linked to a steep decline in native protected water voles.

For more information,
ID materials, and other
resources visit:

nonnativespecies.org



What can I do?

There are five simple things that you can do to help protect the environment:

1. Keep any boats, clothing, footwear and equipment used in water free of invasive non-native species – **remember to Check Clean Dry after use.**

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

For more information visit nonnativespecies.org

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

4. Look out for Asian hornet and other alert species and **record your sightings.**

5. If you enjoy being outside why not **volunteer with a Local Action Group** working on invasive species management.

Water primrose

Ludwigia grandiflora



Image: Trevor Renals

Creeping water plant that can grow on the water's surface, or out of it.

Leaves can be long and slender, up to 9 cm long, or round / egg shaped.

Flowers are up to 3 cm wide, bright yellow, and resemble a primrose.

Currently known from just a few sites in GB.

Clogs waterbodies and could cost millions of pounds to manage each year if it were to establish in GB.

Purple pitcher plant

Sarracenia purpurea



Image: Catherine Chatters

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.

Asian hornet

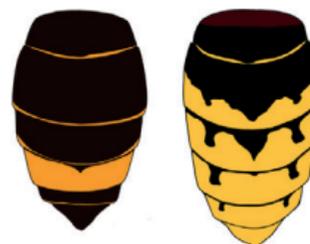
Vespa velutina



Image: David Walker

Asian hornet

European 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 disturb an active nest.

American bullfrog

Lithobates catesbeianus



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.

Raccoon dog

Nyctereutes procyonoides



Image: Used under licence from Shutterstock

Fox sized mammal with short legs and tail.

Fur is mainly blackish-grey.

Has similar black facial markings to a raccoon, but lacks the raccoon's long banded tail.

Predator of birds and amphibians, and can carry a number of diseases including rabies.

Occasionally escapes from captivity but not yet established in GB.

Invasive non-native plants and animals can harm the environment and be costly to the economy

Find out how you can help to prevent their spread