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.

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

Giant hogweed

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.

Flowers 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

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

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

Aquatic plant with fleshy stems.

Leaves are up to 7 cm wide, shiny 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

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

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.

PLANT LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invasive Non-Native Plant</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heracleum mantegazzianum</td>
<td>Giant hogweed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impatiens glandulifera</td>
<td>Himalayan balsam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myriophyllum aquaticum</td>
<td>Parrot’s feather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</td>
<td>Floating pennywort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacifastacus leniusculus</td>
<td>Signal crayfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neovision vison</td>
<td>American mink</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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.

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

For more information visit nonnativespecies.org

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