

Terrestrial species

Invasive species identification guide

Giant hogweed

Plant grows up to 5m tall. Sap of this plant causes skin to blister. A notifiable plant under the Wildlife and Countryside Act



Similar to...

Several plants have similar flowers but none are nearly the same size. Size is the key feature to tell this plant from others

Japanese knotweed

Grows up to 2.5m in a dense 'bush' shape. In winter, without leaves, the stems look a little like a stand of bamboo. A notifiable plant under the Wildlife and Countryside Act



Similar to...

Only similar to other knotweeds which are unlikely to be on drain banks; nothing else will look like this in summer.

Himalayan balsam

Grows up to 2m tall with pinkish flowers from June to August. Known for its exploding seed pods!



Similar to ...

Rosebay willowherb is the only plant that it could be confused with. However Rosebay willowherb has an upright spear like flowers and Himalayan balsam is more rounded and drooping



Rosebay Willowherb
© Tony Hisgett

If I find one of these invasive plants?

Report it to your manager as each one requires different management techniques.

Cutting any of these invasive species is likely to spread them along the drain – and this illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act for Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed.

Photos

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