

## How Can You Help?

Please contact us if you have seen these plants. **If you have them on your land we may be able to provide help with their removal.**



### How to manage these plants yourself

Small patches of Himalayan balsam may be easier for you to remove yourself. Before flowering plants can be removed using a strimmer or pulled by hand from the base, material should be piled away from river banks on dry ground and left to decompose..

**DO NOT** attempt this with Japanese knotweed. In the UK this plant is classed as hazardous material and it is best handled by a professional. Incorrect management will cause further spread.

*Visit our website for more information.*

## Get in Touch

If you have Himalayan balsam or Japanese knotweed on your land please get in contact with the Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative (email [NNNSI@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:NNNSI@norfolk.gov.uk) or call 01603 222836). Similarly, if you are already treating these species, please let us know so that we can update our records. For further information on these plants and their management please contact us.

[www.nnnsi.org](http://www.nnnsi.org)



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## Invasive Species Alert!

**Have you seen these plants?**



## Invasive non-native species



Japanese knotweed growing in a garden

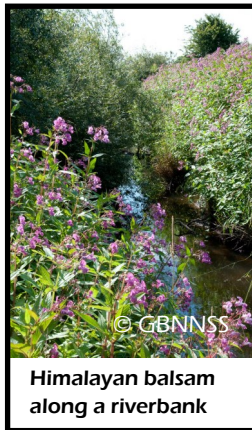
Invasive non-native species are plants and animals that are found outside their natural range and cause harm.

They are:

- Released accidentally or intentionally
- Damaging to the environment
- Difficult to remove

The Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative is working to reduce the number of invasive plants in the River Wensum catchment. We are targeting two of the most damaging invasive plants: Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. While having these species on your land is permitted, allowing either of these species to spread is illegal.

**We need your help.** We will be undertaking an intensive programme to clear these species from the river. **We can provide assistance to help manage these plants along the River Wensum.**



Himalayan balsam along a riverbank



Japanese knotweed flowers

## Japanese Knotweed

Is one of the most damaging weeds in the UK. and costs the economy £200 million annually.

It is a tall, perennial plant from Eastern Asia, growing in dense stands up to 3m with an extensive root-like underground stem system. It has small white flowers in the summer but doesn't produce seeds in the UK.

This species:

- Grows up to 10 cm a day
- Causes damage to infrastructure
- Increases flood risk along rivers
- Harms native species and reduces biodiversity

When managing this species we recommend using professionals. This is because:

- Small root or stem fragments can grow into a new plant
- Fragments can be transported along rivers and roads
- Chemical treatment may be necessary



Japanese knotweed zig-zag growth pattern

## Himalayan Balsam

Grows in dense clusters up to 2.5m tall. It is an annual plant found on the banks of slow flowing rivers. Introduced in the 19th century as an ornamental plant, it has orchid-like bright pink flowers between June and October.



Himalayan balsam flowers

This species:

- Is fast growing
- Outcompetes and prevents growth of native species
- Has exploding seed pods which catapult seeds up to 7m
- Has a shallow root system which can cause soil erosion problems and destabilisation of riverbanks.



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Himalayan balsam flowers and seed pods.