

Non-native Species Alert

Himalayan Balsam

Impatiens glandulifera



Himalayan Balsam plants grow in dense stands that suppress the growth of native grasses and other flora.

In autumn the plants die back, leaving the banks bare of vegetation, and therefore liable to erosion.

Identification features (summer):

Stem:	Pinky-red, up to 2.5 metres tall. Hollow sappy and brittle.
Leaves:	Dark green, spear-shaped with serrated edges. Up to 150 mm long. Opposite or in whorls of three.
Flowers:	Purplish-pink to pale pink. Slipper shaped, on long stalks. June—October.
Seedpods:	Explode when ripe.

The characteristic purplish-pink slipper-shaped flowers first appear in June.

When the seed pods mature, they explode when touched, scattering the seed up to 7m away.

Seeds are also spread by water and they may remain viable for up to two years.

