

INVASIVE WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Himalayan Balsam

- Habitat: Grows on watercourse banks in dense clumps.
Flowers: Jun - Sept. Purplish pink to very pale pink. Slipper shaped on long stalks.
Leaves: Green, spearhead shaped with serrated edges, up to 15cm long
Stems: Pinky-red colour up to 2.5 m tall, hollow, brittle and sappy



Japanese Knotweed

- Habitat: Grows on watercourse banks (+ many other places) in bamboo like clumps.
Flowers: Aug - Oct. Creamy white, elongated clusters.
Leaves: Green heart-shaped upto 12 cm long.
Stems: Up to 3m tall. Green with red speckles and joints. Hollow and bamboo like.



Giant Hogweed

- Habitat: Grows on the banks of watercourses
Flowers: Jun - July. Small white flowers clumped in a large (up to 50 cm) umbrella bouquet.
Leaves: Green up to 1.5 m long with a jagged appearance.
Stems: Up to 5m tall. Green with red blotches. Hollow and up to 10 cm across.



BEWARE - DO NOT TOUCH GIANT HOGWEED!



- Contact with this plant can result in blistering to the skin.
- The plant is covered in fine hairs containing sap that makes skin sensitive to sun light.
- Seek medical advice if blistering occurs after contact.

Other invasive weeds associated with the water environment.

Floating Pennywort

Found forming mats on the water surface in wet ditches and ponds.

Circular or kidney shaped leaves up to 18 cm across.

No flower.



Australian swamp stonecrop

Found forming mats on the water surface in ponds and lakes.

Small white flowers Jun - Sept.

Yellowish green fleshy looking leaves.



Parrots Feather

Found forming mats on the water surface in ponds and lakes.

Feathery looking bright green leaves.

No flowers.



SAFETY ISSUES TO CONSIDER



Weather conditions - Take appropriate measures to protect yourself from the elements such as rain proof clothing / sunblock and hat.



Working near a river - Take extra precautions near watercourses. **DO NOT** take risks when trying to identify the weeds. Watch out for bank collapse, slippery slopes and trip hazards.



Overhanging branches - Be aware of overhanging twigs / branches.



Inform - Always tell someone where you are going and do not work alone.



Hogweed - Can cause severe blistering of the skin. See notes above.