

So, you have found Himalayan balsam on your land, what should you do?

Firstly, are you certain that the suspect plant is **Himalayan balsam**?

Yes

No

A) Eradication method: Strimming (try to cut below the lowest node on the stem to avoid re-growth) and hand pulling (pull from the base of the plant in June/July). Try to pile the plant debris and leave to decompose on a compost heap or in a compost bin. **Health and Safety:** Take caution near open water, do not work alone. Wear hardwearing gardening gloves.

B) Eradication method: Strimming/brush cutting (try to cut below the lowest node on the stem to avoid re-growth in June/July) and hand pulling (pull from the base of the plant in June/July). Try to pile the plant debris and leave to decompose on a compost heap or in a compost bin. Make sure you carry on checking for re-growth after removal, we recommend once a fortnight.

Health and Safety: Wear hardwearing gardening gloves

Note: Wellies are recommended.

C) Do the following if Himalayan balsam is amongst other easily mown plants.

Eradication Method: Mow the area regularly throughout the year; especially in June and July when it is at its peak growth rate, and before August and September when it begins to seed (seeds are catapulted from the plant). The seed pods make a distinctive popping sound when they explode.

It is **ILLEGAL** to knowingly cause this plant to spread into the wild.

Depending on the type of land/terrain it is situated on will determine what removal method will be most effective. Please establish the type of land/terrain your Himalayan balsam is growing on.

- A) Bank side/drainage ditch
- B) Damp woodland
- C) Flat grassy area
- D) Damp/boggy steep slope
- E) Amongst bramble and/or cleaver and other tough plants



Credit: GBNNS

NOTE: When mechanically clearing Himalayan balsam plants young plants can be easily cleared using a strimmer, where as larger plants may need to be cleared using a brush cutter.

The main aim is to prevent the plant from seeding! Himalayan balsam has a 2 to 3 year eradication period with an annual, short lived seed bank.

If you require assistance, a contractor can come and remove the plants for you. There are numerous businesses that do this at a charge, they can be found online or in your telephone directory.



Credit: eliparol.com

Please refer to the **ID guide** produced by the **GBNNS**, our **Facebook page** or **email us** a picture and we will **ID** it for you.

GBNNS website:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonativespecies/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=1495>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives?ref=hl>

Email:

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emily.nobbs@norfolk.gov.uk



Credit: Mike Sutton-Croft

D) Eradication method: Strimming/brush cutting (try to cut below the lowest node on the stem to avoid re-growth) **Health and Safety:** Wear hardwearing gardening gloves. We also recommend you wear sturdy footwear (boots).

E) Eradication Method: In some instances hand pulling may be the only option, to remove by hand pull from the base of the plant in June/July (trying to keep the root mass in tack). Try to pile the plant debris and leave to decompose on a compost heap or place it in compost bin.

Health and Safety: Wear hardwearing gardening gloves and a long sleeved top to protect your arms.

Note: This type of area is difficult to clear with a Brush Cutter. The blade can easily get clogged and struggle to cut through dense bramble.

Re-planting It is very important that after removing invasive non-native vegetation, it is just as important to re-establish native and non-invasive plants. This will help to achieve control, and reduce the likelihood of re-infestation and soil erosion.