

Urban Invaders Invasive Alien Species Survey



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Invasive non-native species are one of the most important causes of biodiversity loss worldwide.

Urban Invaders is run by the RINSE Project and aims to reduce the impact of some of the worst non-native species in Norfolk.

Urban Invaders Invasive Species Survey

Humans are increasingly moving species outside their natural range, sometimes deliberately and sometimes accidentally. In the absence of their natural enemies, some species can spread rapidly and cause problems. These species are termed 'invasive'.

Invasive non-native species are considered to be one of the most important causes of biodiversity loss worldwide, second only to habitat destruction and fragmentation.

They can also have significant economic impacts. One recent estimate put their cost at almost £2 billion a year in the UK alone!

Urban areas are a hotspot for invasive non-native plants. Our new survey -

Urban Invaders - aims to help improve the quality of our data on some of the most damaging invasive plants found in Norfolk. We need YOU to help by telling us when and where you see them.



Floating pennywort choking a waterway (Credit: GBNNSS)

Please tell us if you find one of these invasive alien species.

Records should contain information about: What you saw; When you saw it; Where you saw it (grid reference and habitat); and Who you are. For more information and to submit your records online, go to www.nbis.org.uk/UrbanInvadersSurvey. Or you can send an email to: nnnsi@norfolk.gov.uk, get in touch by phone 01603 228977 or post to RINSE, Room 301, County Hall, Norwich, NR1 2SG.



Species	Date	Place name	Grid reference	Habitat

Your details (name and contact details eg. email address)

Leaflet cover photos. Backdrop: Japanese knotweed (credit: Angus MacAskill), floating pennywort (credit: GBNNSS). Round images: giant hogweed (credit: GBNNSS); Himalayan balsam (credit: Mike Sutton-Croft); New Zealand pigmyweed (credit: GBNNSS).



The RINSE Project

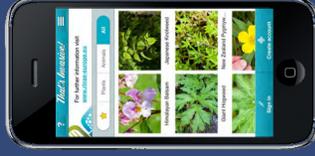
RINSE (Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe) is an exciting European project that aims to improve the way invasive non-native species (INS) are managed across a project area spanning parts of France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Great Britain.

The Project, which is being lead by **Norfolk County Council**, has been part-funded by the European Union's Interreg IVA 2 Seas programme and has a total of nine partners. To find out more please visit www.rinse-europe.eu



Urban Invaders is being run in association with Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS), Norfolk's environmental records centre. NBIS collects and manages wildlife records and provides information for those working for the conservation and enhancement of local biodiversity.

www.nbis.org.uk



You can also submit INS records for these six species and more using the free RINSE App 'That's Invasive!' Download now for Android and iPhone



Urban Invaders Invasive Alien Species

Have you seen these aliens in Norfolk?

Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Description: An annual herb with bright pink-purple, trumpet-shaped flowers, fleshy stem and explosive seed heads.

Where to look: Prefers to grow in damp areas, and is particularly abundant on river banks where it out-competes native vegetation

Why is it a problem? Die back in winter leaves river banks bare and susceptible to erosion.



(Credit : GBNNS)

Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)

Description: This aquatic plant has characteristic, kidney-shaped leaves which can be free-floating or emergent. It has fleshy stems and fine, white roots.

Where to look: Emergent or floating on the surface of still or slowly moving freshwater.

Why is it a problem? With a peak growth rate of 20cm per day, floating pennywort can rapidly dominate a water body!



(Credit : Broads Authority)

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Description: Large plant with umbrella-shaped flowers and sharply divided leaves, growing up to 5m tall. The stems are usually covered with sharp bristles, and have distinctive purple patches. Each flower can release up to 50,000 seeds!

Where to look: Found in a variety of habitats, but common on riverbanks and roadside verges.

Why is it a problem? The poisonous sap of this plant can blister skin.



(Credit : Olaf Booy)



(Credit : GBNNS)

New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*)

Description: Aquatic perennial with small yellow-green, succulent leaves and solitary white flowers.

Where to look: Still or slow flowing freshwater. The plant also has a terrestrial phenotype that can be found around ponds and lake margins.

Why is it a problem? Forms very dense mats that can choke waterways, impede drainage and cause flooding.



(Credit : GBNNS)

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

Description: Tall herbaceous perennial with bamboo like stems covered with purple speckles. The shield-shaped leaves are 10-15cm long with a flat base. White flowers in late summer.

Where to look: Widespread throughout the UK. Often found in or adjacent to, brown-field sites and along river banks.

Why is it a problem? The root system and strong growth of this plant can damage foundations. Dense colonies crowd out other herbaceous species.



(Credit : Mike Sutton-Croft)

Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Description: A tree with large pinnate leaves each consisting of around 11-25 pairs of leaflets reaching 7-12cm in length. Flowers are a yellowish green to red in colour. When broken, twigs have a distinctive unpleasant odour.

Where to look: Urban areas such as railway banks, waste ground and parks.

Why is it a problem? Extensive growth can damage sewers, pavements and building foundations. Sap is mildly toxic and can cause inflammation of the skin.



(Credit : Luis Fernández García)

Find out more: www.rinse-europe.eu