



Non native plants

What's the issue?

Invasive non native plant species introduced plants that cause damage due to their ability to spread. They can damage river bank habitat, affect native flora, cause bank erosion, and indirectly damage economically important species such as Atlantic salmon. Some species (e.g. Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed) are present in the catchment, but their distribution has not been recorded systematically.

Taking the measurement



Who? Any observer with a basic knowledge of which species of vegetation are native and non-native to Scottish waters.



Your safety Remember DO NOT go alongside the river or loch if: you can't swim, the water is too deep or fast moving, or if you are alone.



How long does it take? 5 minutes



Equipment needed No specialist equipment needed.



How to measure Use the descriptive scale to categorise the extent of abundance of any non-native species on the bed, surface and in the water column. If you feel confident you can identify the non-native species then include its common, or latin name in the comments box. Examples of common non-natives are shown below.



Tips It would be a great help to include an image of the non-native species as your uploaded photograph to the website. If you do not feel confident to identify that the species is non-native then add a note of this in the comments box.

Identification



[Giant Hogweed](#) can grow to five metres high with leaves one metre across.



[Japanese Knotweed](#) forms dense stands in both open and riparian areas.



[Himalayan Balsam](#) forms thick stands that die back in winter.

For detailed information see the RAFTS [Invasive Species and Biosecurity Programme](#). For more general biological recording refer to website for [NESBReC](#).