

# Himalayan balsam

*Impatiens glandulifera*

Himalayan balsam is an invasive non-native species which is spreading throughout our towns and countryside. It is often found on the banks of streams and rivers where it crowds out native vegetation and increases the risk of erosion.



## Control Principals

- Himalayan balsam is an annual plant which is only propagated by seed so control should aim to prevent plants seeding
- Seeds are spread by water so control should be carried out from the upstream extent of the balsam
- Control should be carried out throughout the growing season (May to September) for maximum effectiveness.

## Non-chemical control

- Cutting plants at ground level is very effective at controlling large areas of plants. This can be achieved by strimming, mowing or with hand tools.
- Pulling (or 'balsam bashing') is another good way to control this plant. Twist off the roots to prevent them re-growing.
- Cut and pulled plants may be left in-situ to rot down or removed and composted off-site.



## Chemical control

- Himalayan balsam is susceptible to glyphosate and 2,4-D amine based herbicides.
- Apply glyphosate as a foliar spray using a knapsack sprayer before the plants start flowering (June)
- 2,4-D amine is best used earlier, when the young plants are at the roseate stage.
- You must have an Environment Agency permit to spray near water.



For more information, please visit [www.lancashireinvasives.org](http://www.lancashireinvasives.org)

Or contact the Ribble Rivers Trust on 01200 444452  
or email: [admin@ribbletrust.com](mailto:admin@ribbletrust.com)

