

# INVASIVE WEEDS

- Giant Hogweed



- Toxic sap reacts with sunlight causing photosensitive dermatitis.
- Causes blistering to skin that can recur year after year.
- Can cause blindness if sap gets in the eyes.
- Skin contact with stem or leaves should be avoided.
- Skin can be left permanently discoloured and sensitised.



- Tall growing – up to 15 feet!
- Hollow stems
- Large umbrella like flowers.
- More than 50,000 seeds per plant.
- Quickly forms monoculture.
- Easily controlled by spraying.

It is essential that all flowering plants are controlled to prevent rapid increase of seed bank and years of further effort to eradicate this nuisance species. Contact Ayrshire rivers Trust for assistance and advice 01290 518130



- Japanese Knotweed



- Highly invasive, takes over and excludes all other plants.
- Spreads only by cuttings from root or shoot.
- Does not produce seed in UK.
- Difficult and expensive to control. Spraying is ineffective. Control is best achieved by stem injection with a measured dose of glyphosate weedkiller.
- Reduces land values especially where development is planned.
- Planning regulations require removal pre development.
- Strict control on disposal of waste plant material and contaminated soil.
- For specialist advice contact Ayrshire Rivers Trust 01290 518130



- Himalayan Balsam



- Highly invasive annual that forms large areas of monoculture.
- Leads to bare soils in winter & increased erosion. Contributes to diffuse pollution.
- Seed pods pop on contact in late summer spreading the seed for up to 7metres.
- Pale pink to deep purple flowers that resemble an upturned policeman's helmet.
- Highly attractive to bees leading to reduced pollination in native species.
- Controlled by manual pulling or spraying where dense.
- Best controlled late June and July

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