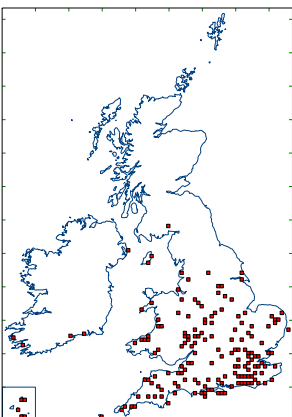


Parrot's Feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum



A common escapee from garden ponds, spreading by growth from small stem fragments.



Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) is a native of lowland central South America.

It was first found in Britain in 1960 and has now spread extensively, particularly in southern England.

Distribution map - Parrot's Feather
Source: Botanical Society of the British Isles (2010)

A downloadable identification sheet for this species is available at www.nonnativespecies.org

Separate leaflets are available outlining the legal requirements and responsibilities for landowners.

The correct disposal of plant material is vital because there is a high risk of spreading the problem further. Contact the Environment Agency (England and Wales) or SEPA (Scotland) for advice on disposal.

Environment Agency - Tel: 08708 506 506
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Tel : 01786 457 700 www.sepa.org.uk

Further information may also be found on the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology web pages:
http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sci_programmes/AquaticPlantManagement.html

A local project is currently underway with the aim of tackling Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) in the Tame Valley Wetlands scheme area.

We are asking local landowners, friends of groups and other interested parties to help us in this task to prevent the spread of these invasive species and promote native flora.

If you would like to know more about our project, need advice or help with management, we would like to hear from you.

Tame Valley Wetlands

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
Off Canton Lane
Coleshill
Warwickshire
B46 1GA

Phone: 01675 470917
E-mail: enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk



Control methods for Parrot's Feather

Non-chemical control

Cutting and dredging can be used very effectively in small areas and gives a reasonable means of control. All fragments should be removed to prevent regrowth and downstream spread.

Cutting

Cut material must be removed from the water as soon as possible. Fragmentation must be avoided. Material should be cut as often as necessary and at least every six to nine weeks from March to October to weaken the plant.

Pulling or dredging

Dredging shallow areas will remove this plant very effectively. Carefully pulling out stems by hand after mechanical removal will help to eradicate it.

Grazing

The plant is not palatable to herbivores; cattle and horses will avoid it. There is virtually no insect damage to plants in the UK, but research into biological control agents is underway.



©GBNNS

It produces emergent shoots in addition to submerged ones, which give it the characteristic feathery appearance, hence its name.

Only female plants are established in the UK and it therefore spreads by vegetative means only. The stems are brittle and the plant propagates by growth from small stem fragments. The species is attractive to look at and is widely grown in garden ponds. Introductions to the wild are usually not deliberate, but fragments can be concealed in the soil of other pot plants sold at aquatic garden centres and nurseries.



©RPS Group PLC

Chemical control

Chemical control can be achieved by applying glyphosate with the adjuvant Topfilm to emergent growth.

Apply glyphosate at 6 litres/ha to emergent stands from March to October. Regular annual treatment is required, and at least two applications will be necessary each year.

In general

Regular treatment is necessary. Weed wiping with glyphosate may be appropriate in mixed marginal vegetation. Spot treatment of small patches will prevent complete dominance. Treat early and regularly.



©GBNNS