

Responsibility for invasive weed control

Responsibility for dealing with invasive weeds rests with individual landowners.

Control efforts by individuals can help reduce the spread of invasive non-native species and are most successful if carried out as a catchment wide co-ordinated strategy with collaboration of all relevant parties.

Control often needs to be repeated year after year.

Further information may also be found on the following web pages:

GB Non-native Species Secretariat
www.nonnativespecies.org

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

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
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

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Control of invasive non-native plants

Legislation & Responsibilities In England and Wales



Responsibility for dealing with invasive weeds rests with individual landowners. This leaflet gives some general information on the legislation that relates to these responsibilities.

Non-native plants - Legislation and responsibilities for landowners in England and Wales

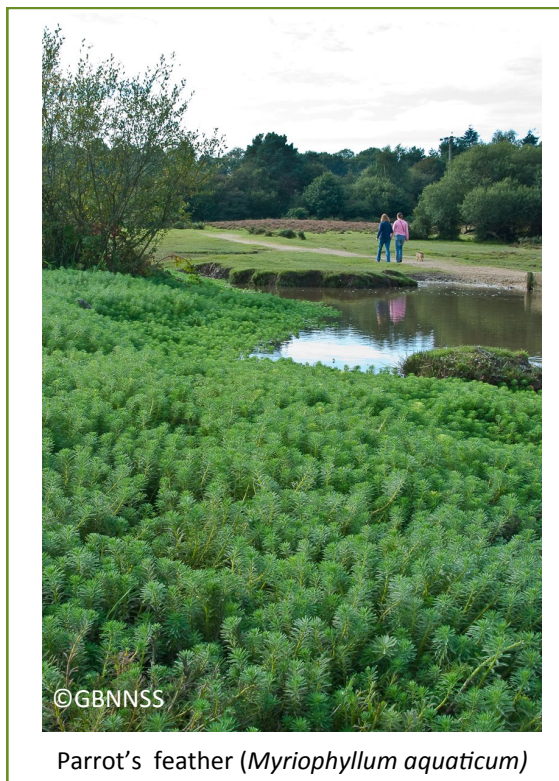
Existing legislation

When non-native species become invasive they can transform ecosystems, causing a variety of problems including seriously threatening native species. These problems occur worldwide, and international obligations to address them are placed on the UK through regional and global agreements. These include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural habitats, and the EC Habitats and Species Directive.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides the primary controls on the release of non-native species into the wild in Great Britain. It is an offence under section 14(2) of the Act to 'plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild' any plant listed in Schedule 9, Part II. The plants currently listed in Schedule 9 are :

Carolina water-shield	Japanese knotweed
<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	Japanese rose
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>
<i>Cotoneaster integrifolius</i>	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>
<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	<i>Ludwigia uruguayensis</i>
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	New Zealand pygmyweed
<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	Parrots feather
Curly waterweed	Perfoliate alexanders
Duck potato	Purple dewplant
Elodea species	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>
False virginia creeper	<i>Rhodo. ponticum x maximum</i>
Few flowered leek	Shallon
Floating pennywort	Three cornered garlic
Giant hogweed	Variegated yellow archangel
Giant knotweed	Virginia creeper
Giant rhubarb	Water fern
Giant salvinia	Water hyacinth
Himalayan balsam	Water lettuce
Hottentot fig	Yellow azalea
Hybrid knotweed	

N.B. In Scotland there is a different list of species.



Stricter enforcement provisions for wildlife offences were introduced under the **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**. These include increased penalties available to the courts for offences committed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. A Magistrates court can impose a maximum fine of £5000 and a maximum of six months in prison. A Crown Court can impose an unlimited fine and a maximum of two years in prison.

The **Environmental Protection Act 1990** includes the potential to classify soil and other waste containing viable propagules of invasive non-native plant species as controlled waste. Subsequently, waste containing Japanese Knotweed must be disposed of in accordance with official Environment Agency guidance designed to prevent further spread of the plant (see the environment agency website, address overleaf).

Other legislation relevant to non-native plant species includes:

Plant Health Act 1967
Forestry Act 1967
Plant Health (Great Britain) Order 1993
Plant Health (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 1989
Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Highways Act 1980
Plant Protection Products Regulations 1995
Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act 1976
Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations (1997)
Water Resources Act 1991
The Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994
The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002



One of several invasive aquatic non-native plants , New Zealand Pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*), also known as Australian Swamp Stonecrop. It is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild.