



Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative

I've found Himalayan balsam on my land, what should I do?



Are you sure it's Himalayan balsam?

Yes

No

1: Strim (cut below lowest node on stem to avoid re-growth) or hand pull (from the base of the plant) in April/May. Pile plant debris & leave to decompose or place in compost heap. Check for re-growth after 2 weeks. **Health and Safety:** take care near open water, do not work alone. Wear gardening gloves. Wellies or waders recommended.

2: Strim (cut below lowest node on stem to avoid re-growth) or hand pull (pull from the base of the plant) in April/May. Pile plant debris & leave to decompose or place in compost heap. Check for re-growth after 2 weeks. **Health and Safety:** wear gardening gloves. Wellies recommended.

3: Mow area regularly throughout the year; especially in peak growth Jun/Jul & before Aug/Sept when plants begin to seed.

The best way to get rid of Himalayan balsam will depend on where it's growing:

- 1) Lakeside, river bank or drainage ditch
- 2) Damp woodland
- 3) Flat grassy area
- 4) Damp/boggy steep slope
- 5) In bramble, cleaver and/or other tough plants

The main aim is to prevent the plant from seeding! Himalayan balsam seeds survive in the ground for 2-3 years. All control methods must be repeated over a minimum of 3 years to ensure complete eradication of this plant.

If you don't have the tools, skill or time to tackle Himalayan balsam yourself, you can hire a contractor - search online or in the phone book.

Need help? Got some questions?

[NNNSI website](#)

facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives

nnnsi@norfolk.gov.uk

4. Strim or brushcut (cut below the lowest node on the stem to avoid re-growth). **Health and Safety:** wear gardening gloves & sturdy footwear.

5. Hand pull plant from the base (keep the root mass intact) in April/May. Pile plant debris & leave to decompose or place in compost heap. **Health and Safety:** wear gardening gloves & a long sleeved top to protect your arms. **Note:** this type of area is difficult to clear with a brush cutter as the blade will struggle to cut through dense bramble.

NOTE: young plants can be cleared using a strimmer, but bigger plants may need to be cleared using a brushcutter.

Re-planting After removing invasive non-native vegetation, it is important to re-establish native, non-invasive plants. This will help to reduce the likelihood of re-infestation & soil erosion and increase biodiversity.

It is **ILLEGAL** to knowingly cause this plant to spread into the wild