

Illegal Aliens

Japanese Knotweed

Japanese Knotweed is a plant introduced from Asia which can grow prolifically in our climate and smother native bankside vegetation.



The plants can grow up to 3 metres in height. The root system can spread 7 metres sideways and 2 metres down into the ground.

Because the plants can regenerate from a single piece of cut stem they should be controlled chemically and not by cutting.

The Environment Agency can give advice on the appropriate chemicals to use next to watercourses.

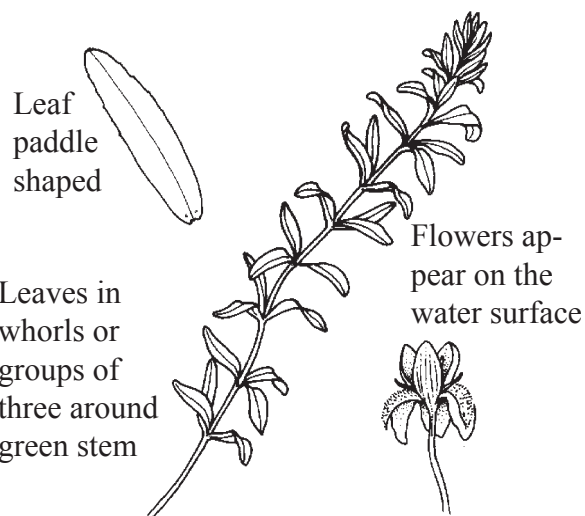
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Canadian Pondweed

Although advocated as a good aerator plant by some this species **SHOULD NOT** be planted in ponds as it can completely take over and choke water bodies.

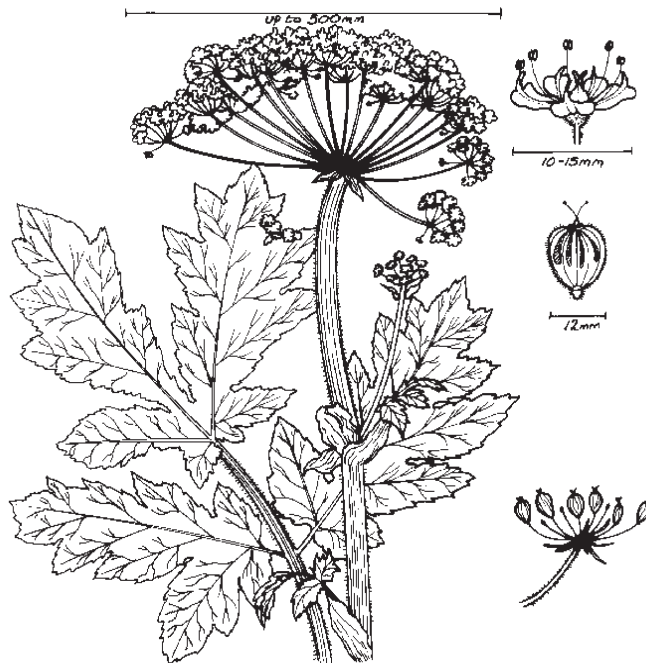


Eradication is difficult, the Environment Agency can give advice on chemical control. On some sites limited success can be achieved by laying plastic sheeting over the surface to stop the pond weed gaining sunlight for photosynthesis.



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Giant Hogweed



This species was introduced early in the last Century into parks and gardens across the country. It spreads along rivers and shades out native plants, leading to excessive bankside erosion.

There are tiny hairs on the stem and leaves that contain a poison which causes a severe rash if brushed against bare skin.

Plants can be managed with glyphosate-based herbicides after consultation with the Environment Agency.