

Howardian Hills National Landscape

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Hills**
National
Landscape



What are Invasive Non-native Species?

- Plants, animals and other organisms introduced outside their natural range by people.
- Most non-native species are harmless, but some spread rapidly and become invasive.
- Invasive species can harm wildlife, environments, the economy, health and quality of life.
- One of the top threats to global biodiversity costing the British economy over £1.7 billion a year.

Environment Agency

STOP THE SPREAD

INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

CHECK-CLEAN-DRY

North American Signal Crayfish
Pacifastacus leniusculus

The signal crayfish is similar in appearance and size to the native European crayfish. It was first established in England and Wales, especially in the South-East of England. The signal crayfish is displacing the native white-clawed crayfish towards extinction by spreading crayfish plague. It also feeds on a variety of native freshwater animals, causing changes in the invertebrate community. Burrowing by crayfish can cause erosion of riverbanks, flood damage and decrease the effectiveness of the eggs of fish.

First record in the wild in GB	1975
Potential extent of spread	32
Cost benefit	35

Himalayan Balsam
Impatiens glandulifera

Also known as policeman's helmet, or bee-bomb, this plant has become widespread across GB since its introduction from Victorian gardens. The flowers are rich in nectar, which encourages pollinating insects and reduces the pollination of native species that flower at the same time. The flowers form seed pods that explode and spread seed up to two metres. Himalayan balsam is the fastest growing plant in the UK in winter. It dies off, leaving riparian areas exposed to erosion.

First record in the wild in GB	1855
Potential extent of spread	36
Cost benefit	57

Rhododendron
Rhododendron ponticum

Rhododendron forms dense bushes on acid soils, with characteristic deep leaves and purple flowers. Its dense thickets displace native plants, preventing regeneration of trees in woods and dominating the ground vegetation on moor. It is poisonous to livestock and can be controlled by grazing. It is also a disease reservoir for Phytophthora ramorum and P. kernoviae, which attack oak and holly. Each plant can produce several million seeds.

First record in the wild in GB	1894
Potential extent of spread	20
Cost benefit	64
EA impact	44
Biosecurity risk	25

Giant Hogweed
Heracleum mantegazzianum

There are native hogweeds that look similar to giant hogweed, but none get nearly as tall. The hogweed collected this plant from the Caucasus and planted it in gardens from where it spread by seed along watercourses and across wasteland. The sap of giant hogweed is phototoxic, causing severe chemical burns and blisters when skin is exposed to sunlight. You must take great care to avoid any contact with giant hogweed, especially its sap. Never drink it.

First record in the wild in GB	1828
Potential extent of spread	33
Cost benefit	80
EA impact	72
Biosecurity risk	85

Japanese Knotweed
Fallopia japonica

Japanese knotweed is a herbaceous perennial, with stems typically about 2m tall and an extensive system of underground rhizomes. It has large, deeply lobed leaves, with a broad shape, rather than the narrow, lanceolate leaves of native species. The stems are green, usually with purple flecks, and produce white flowers in autumn. In winter the stems turn brown and woody. Knotweed is common along roads, rivers and in urban areas, forming dense stands that exclude native species and major crop seedlings and hindering its spread by the pieces of the rhizome in soil.

First record in the wild in GB	1886
Potential extent of spread	33
Cost benefit	54
EA impact	64
Biosecurity risk	84

How do they harm native wildlife & the environment?

- Out-compete native species for food, light and space.
- Prey on native wildlife or spread diseases.
- Damage habitats and ecosystem processes.
- Contribute to biodiversity loss and can increase management costs.

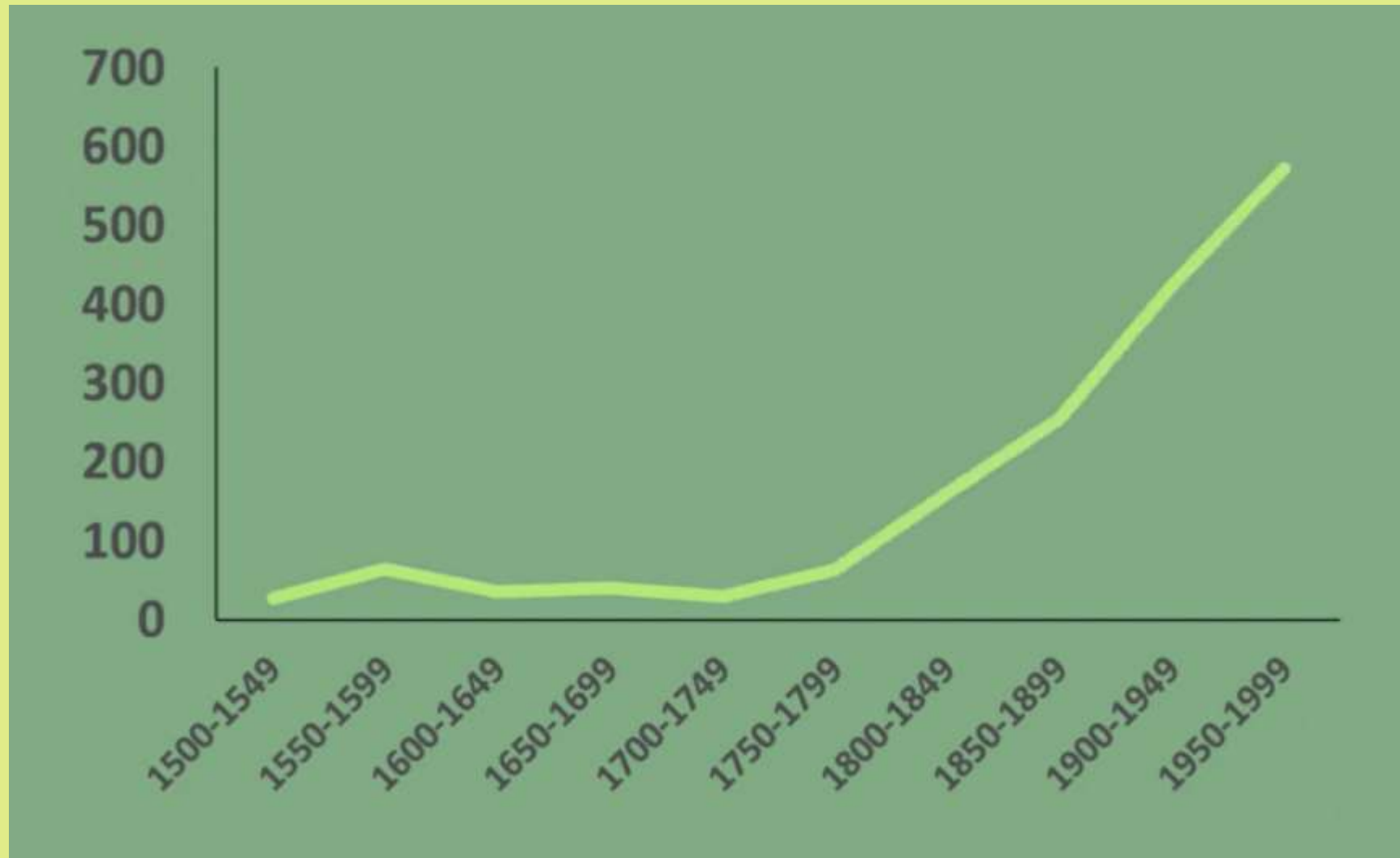


How are they spread?

- Deliberate releases of plants, pets or animals.
- Hitch-hikers on boats, equipment, vehicles, footwear and clothing.
- Movement of soil, water, garden waste and contaminated materials.
- International travel and trade.



The no. of new species arriving in the UK is increasing



What can I do to help?

1. Check, Clean, Dry equipment after outdoor activities.
2. Never release pets or aquarium species into the wild.
3. Dispose of garden waste responsibly.
4. Learn to recognise and report invasive non-native species.
5. Get involved in conservation volunteering



Where can I find out more?

- GB Non-Native Species Secretariat:
www.nonnativespecies.org
- National Landscapes and local recording groups.
- iRecord , INNS Mapper and local environmental records centres.
- Look for Invasive Species Week resources and guidance.

