

Update on comms and engagement

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GB Non-native Species Secretariat



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



The Scottish
Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

INNS awareness raising campaigns



Be Plant Wise

- Ornamental plants
- Guidance for gardeners on responsible management of plants
- Website and materials for retailers and gardeners



Invasive plants in your garden

Last edited: Jan 11, 2023, 4:37 PM

Controlling invasive plants in your garden

If you have an invasive plant in your garden that you want to control or remove, the following links provide useful information on identifying invasive plants and options for managing them:

- [Identification guides](#) for a number of invasive plants
- [Guidance on management of common invasive plants](#)

Disposing of invasive non-native plants from your garden

You should make sure nothing you remove from your garden, pond or aquarium gets into the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does. Never dump any garden waste beyond your garden boundary.

- Find out more about [restrictions on invasive non-native plants](#)

Most plants can be composted at home but some require an alternative disposal method, find out more below.

Composting at home

Most non-native ornamental plants can be composted at home, but some do not properly decompose in small scale composting (such as cold composting at home) and may regrow. The table below contains guidance on species to look out for and how to dispose of them. You may wish to avoid growing these species in your garden.

Hot composting systems which operate at a higher temperature killing most seeds and roots can be bought or created at home and are likely to be more effective at breaking down invasive non-native plants. Research good composting practice to reduce the risk of regrowth/survival.

Most of the species which are unsuitable for composting can be disposed of in your green waste collection as they will be broken down by the heat generated during large scale composting. They can also be disposed of by burning to avoid regrowth.

Non-native plants that should not be composted at home

Species	Part of plant	Do not compost at home in cold compost	Can be put in green bin	Requires specific treatment at home
Acaena spp. (Piri-piri bur)	Seeds	X	X	
Acanthus mollis (Bear's breech)	Roots	X	X	
Alchemilla mollis (Lady's mantle)	Seed heads	X	X	



Guide to gardening without invasive plants



- Over 160 species: terrestrial and aquatic
- Guides for gardeners, landscapers, and pond owners



Adverts and events



WHEN ELEGANCE MATTERS, CHOOSE DURAPOST.

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BY BIRKBECH

If your plants escape beyond your garden border they can become invasive, harming our wildlife, environment and economy.

Once established, invasive plants are costly to control and the damage they cause can be irreversible. You can help protect the environment by following three simple tips:

- KNOW WHAT YOU GROW** Choose the right plants for your garden, pond, aquarium and water features
- STOP THE SPREAD** Keep your plants in your garden - don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild
- COMPOST WITH CARE** Dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds, and seed heads responsibly

Visit: nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise for further tips



Be Plant Wise

Plants are vital to our world, but the wrong plant in the wrong place can do more harm than good. Read on to find out why - and how you can help

Growing non-native species in your garden allows you to create beautiful, ornamental displays that make sitting in our outdoor spaces such a joy. But did you know that if these plants escape into the wild, some may harm our wildlife and environment, and even our economy and health?

Invasive varieties, as these plants are known, can damage native flora by spreading pests and diseases, as well as competing for space, light, nutrients and water. This can have a wider impact on other species too, including birds and butterflies, and could even threaten the survival of rare plants. The good news is, you can play your part in curbing the spread of invasive non-native species. All you have to do is Be Plant Wise.



HOW TO HELP

- KNOW WHAT YOU GROW** Choose the right plants for your garden, pond, aquarium, and water features.
- STOP THE SPREAD** Stop the spread: keep your plants in your garden - don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild.
- COMPOST WITH CARE** Compost with care: dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds and seed heads responsibly.

Invasive plants in the wild

Have you seen these plants? Here are just a few of the invasive species that are already proving a problem across Britain:



HIMALAYAN BALSAM
Some wildlife are dependent on a single plant species. The highly endangered tansy beetle was reduced to a single population when its sole food source, the native tansy plant, became rare, partly due to competition from invasive Himalayan balsam.

RHODODENDRON
This popular garden flower can host plant disease organisms *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae*, which are a serious threat to oak, beech and larch trees. It also spreads rapidly, outcompeting native plants.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED
This weed is extremely difficult to eradicate and can cause structural damage to roads and houses, growing through asphalt and concrete. This can lead to significant delays and costs to development, estimated at £150m a year.

If your plants escape beyond your garden they can become invasive, harming our wildlife, environment, and economy

BE PLANT WISE

You can help by following three simple tips:

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- STOP THE SPREAD** Keep your plants in your garden - don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild.
- COMPOST WITH CARE** Dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds and seed heads responsibly.

Find out more at nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise

Photography Tuition with Daniel Bridge



Google Ads



Be Plant Wise – what next?



- Professional horticulturalists
 - Gardeners
 - Landscapers
 - Designers
- Increase presence in stores

Tips for professional horticulturalists

We all want to look after the environment and our native wildlife for future generations to enjoy. As a horticulturalist you can help by taking simple measures to avoid spreading invasive plants and educating your clients or visitors on how they can do this too.

Be Plant Wise

Follow three simple steps to help prevent the spread of invasive non-native plants:



Know what you grow

Choose the right plants for your garden, pond and water features. Download your free guide to [plants to use in place of invasive non-native species](#) to help you.



Stop the spread

Keep your plants in your garden - don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild.



Compost with care

Dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds, and seed heads responsibly. Find out [which invasive plants can't be composted](#) and how to dispose of them safely.

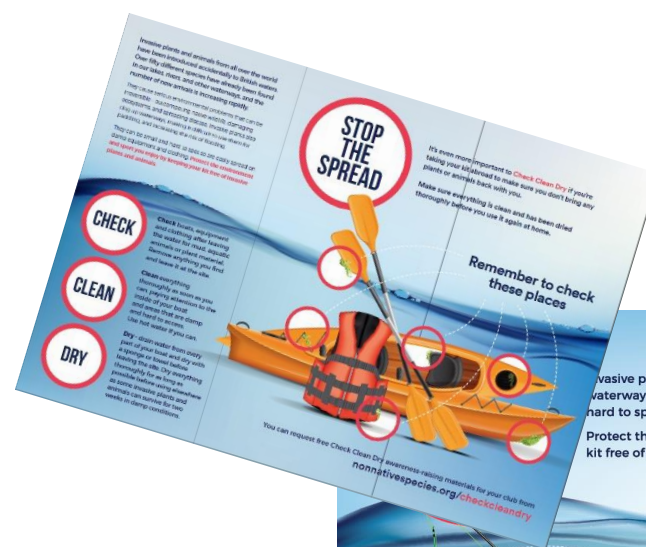
Further guidance to help you

- [Tips to help you and your clients put Be Plant Wise guidance into practice](#)
- [Restrictions on invasive non-native plants and lists of plants to which these apply](#)
- [Invasive non-native plants that can't be composted at home and how to dispose of them](#)
- [Managing invasive non-native plants: links to information](#)
- [Be Plant Wise materials for you and your clients](#)

Check Clean Dry



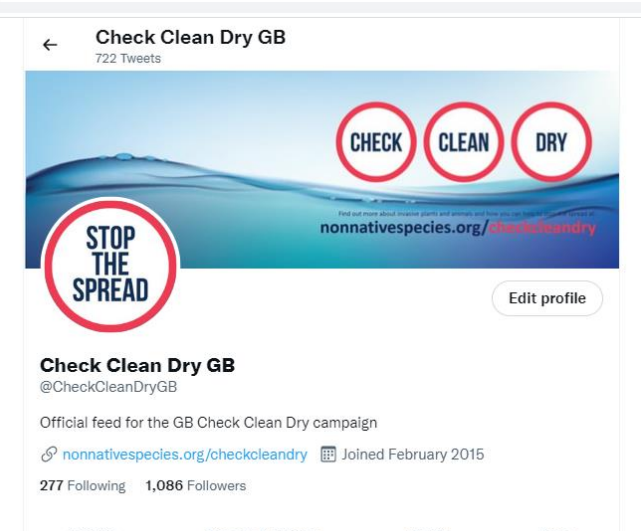
- Recreational water users
- Over 40 bespoke materials for different user groups



Check Clean Dry

Video guides

View handy video guides from the [RYA \(external link\)](#) and the Green Blue.



Border biosecurity



Check Clean Dry – what next?

- Continue to install signs at sites with:
 - Priority species (KS / QM)
 - Regular events
- Reach water users not affiliated with a club
- Training for event organisers and asset managers
- Other groups



Invasive Species Week: 20-26 May



Daily themes:

- Mon: What are INNS?
- Tues: How are they spread?
- Weds: Why are they a problem?
- Thurs: What is being done to prevent this?
- Fri: What can I do?
- Sat / Sun: Events and activities to take part in



60+ species

www.nonnativespecies.org
For definitive identification, contact: recording@nnss.co.uk

Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*)

Synonyms:
-big slowway crab, Chinese freshwater edible crab, Chinese miter-handed crab, Chinese milk-ten-handed crab, Chinese river crab, crane chival, mitten crab, river crab, Shanghai crab, vilus crab
-Eriocheir japonica, E. leghornensis, E. rectus

Consignments likely to come from: unknown

Use: may be used for human consumption

Identification difficulty: easy

Identification information:
-the only freshwater crab present in Britain
-body (carapace) olive-green/brown, up to 5cm wide
-antennae covered in a mat of fine hair, resembling antennae
-legs long and hairy

Key ID Features

Invasive non-native plants and animals cause great harm to wildlife and the environment and reduce their ability to cope with climate change and habitat loss.

There are five simple things you can do to help:

- 1 CHECK CLEAN DRY**
If you go fishing, boating or paddling, remember to: **Check Clean Dry your clothing, footwear and equipment after leaving the water.**
- 2 BE PLANT WISE**
Be Plant Wise: **don't let your garden, pond, or aquarium plants enter the wild.**
- 3**
Take care of your pets, never release them or allow them to escape into the wild. It's cruel and could harm other wildlife.
- 4**
Look out for Asian hornet, a predator of honeybees which is not yet established in GB. Record your sightings of this and other alert species through iRecord.
- 5**
If you enjoy being outside, why not join a Local Action Group to help manage invasive plants.

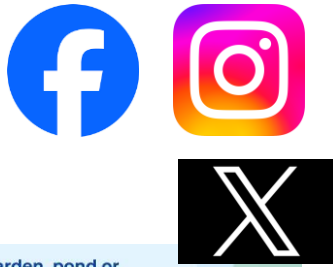
Visit nonnativespecies.org for more information

<p>Purple pitcher plant</p> <p>Carneivorous plant with a cluster of modified tubular leaves with hooded open lobes. Leaves are green, yellow or reddish with purple veins. The inner surface of the leaf has downward pointing hairs. Has yet established in GB. Features important long habitats and could replace the local flora.</p>	<p>Asian hornet</p> <p>slightly smaller than the native hornet (spans up to 3cm long, worker up to 2.5 cm long). Legs are yellow at the end (black in native hornet). Abdomen is dark brown / black with a yellow / orange band on the 4th segment (more yellow in native hornet). Never welcome at night. A number of sightings have been recorded in GB since 2016 but one species is not yet established. This species is a highly aggressive invasive threat to honeybees and other pollinators. This species can sting, do not.</p>	<p>American bullfrog</p> <p>Very large frog, up to 20 cm long with a olive call. Fur is mainly blackish-grey. Ear drum has a dark outer ring and is at least as large as its eye. No ridges along the back unlike similar frogs. Competes with, and eats, native amphibians and causes a disease that has contributed to worldwide amphibian decline. Present at a few sites in GB but not widely established.</p>	<p>Raccoon dog</p> <p>Fur is mainly blackish-grey. Has similar black facial markings to long bodied fox. Predator of birds and amphibians, and can carry a number of diseases, including rabies. Occasionally escapes from captivity.</p>	<p>hogweed</p> <p>Up to 5 m tall. Stem usually has sharp bristles & fleshy purple patches (sometimes completely purple). Leaves are up to 3 m wide, and sharply divided / compound. Flowerheads are up to 80 cm wide, umbrella shaped, and white / pinkish. WARNING: do not touch this plant. The sap is toxic, and causes stinging of the skin on exposure to sunlight.</p>	<p>Himalayan balsam</p> <p>Up to 2 m tall. Leaves are up to 15 cm long, opposite shaped, 2.5-5 cm long. Flowers are pink and trumpet shaped. Grows in dense stands and outcompetes native plants, also harming other species which rely on them. Dies back in winter leaving rootstocks bare and exposed to erosion.</p>	<p>Parrot's feather</p> <p>Aquatic plant which may grow under the water, or out of the water. Leaves are blue green and feather-like, arranged around the stem in groups of 4-6. Flowers are blue and more robust than those growing under water. Can block ditches and dominate ponds.</p>	<p>Floating pennywort</p> <p>Aquatic plant with fleshy stems. Leaves are up to 7 cm wide, shiny edge, usually broader than long. Quickly forms dense mats which outcompete native plants and interfere with recreation. To get involved in managing this plant, visit nonnativespecies.org/floatingspennywort.</p>	<p>Signal crayfish</p> <p>Up to 16 cm long, resembles a small red / brown lobster. Has large claws with a bright red underside and a tongue / white block on the claw hinge. Kills the native crayfish through competition and carries a crayfish plague which is deadly to the native crayfish. Burrows into riverbanks weakening them.</p>
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Be Plant Wise posts for social media

Autumn / Winter:

Text	Graphics
<p>Planning to clear your garden ready for winter? 🍂</p> <p>Invasive non-native plants can harm the environment if they escape from your garden into the wild</p> <p>You can help! Dispose of your plants responsibly, compost with care 🌱♻️</p> <p>Find out more @InvasiveSp #BePlantWise</p>	
<p>Planning next year's planting? #BePlantWise to protect the environment! Make sure the plants you buy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are right for your garden or aquarium • aren't invasive • will be easy to dispose of <p>Download a free guide to over 160 plants to use in place of #invasive plants</p> <p>Visit @InvasiveSp</p>	
<p>#BePlantWise to protect the environment!</p> <p>Compost your unwanted plants and garden waste to prevent the spread of #invasiveplants and benefit your garden!</p> <p>For more tips visit @InvasiveSp</p>	



If your garden, pond or aquarium plants spread into the wild they can become invasive and cause great harm to our wildlife, environment, and economy

You can help by following three simple tips:

KNOW WHAT YOU GROW **STOP THE SPREAD** **COMPOST WITH CARE**

Retailers can order a free kit to help your customers

Find out more at nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise

Fishing, boating, or paddling abroad?

Make sure your kit is clean before using it again at home, remember to:

CHECK CLEAN DRY

Invasive species and diseases kill fish and block waterways and could easily be spread on your kit

nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

20 - 26 May 2024 is Invasive Species Week

Invasive non-native plants and animals are one of the top drivers of biodiversity loss

Find out how you can help protect the environment: nonnativespecies.org/invasivespeciesweek

Images: Jean Haxaire, Environment Agency, John W Anderson

Asian hornet awareness raising



2023

- 25k ID sheets
- 14k alert posters

2024

- 40k ID sheets
- 6k alert posters

www.nonnativespecies.org

Version 1.0. Produced by Lucy Cornwell (NNSS), Nigel Semmence (National Bee Unit).
Based on 'Identification Information Sheet' Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

Asian Hornet nest identification

Asian hornets produce two types of nest, primary and secondary:


Primary nests:

- Spherical with a small entrance hole at the base, usually 5 to 10 cm in diameter.
- Built in spring by a lone Asian hornet queen, usually in a protected place such as brambles, a hedgerow, or in / on a building.
- **All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar, only report primary nests if seen with Asian hornets.** To identify a nest, watch for insects from a safe distance.


Secondary nests:

- Pear-shaped, entrance hole halfway up the nest, up to 60 cm wide x 80 cm tall.
- Usually found in trees, may also be in buildings and hedges.
- **Use binoculars to identify secondary nests from a safe distance. Do not disturb suspected nests and retreat from any wasp / hornet nests if flying insects are observed.**


Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*




Primary nest: All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar. Only report if seen with Asian hornet.




Secondary nests in a tree canopy in summer (left)



Secondary nest in a hedge



Secondary nest in a building




Alert!

Report sightings of Asian hornet and suspected nests:


- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

For assistance with identifying a suspected Asian hornet nest, or to help identify nests, please contact your local Asian Hornet Team (AHT).

Report Asian hornet:



Find an AHT:



Have you seen this insect?

Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*

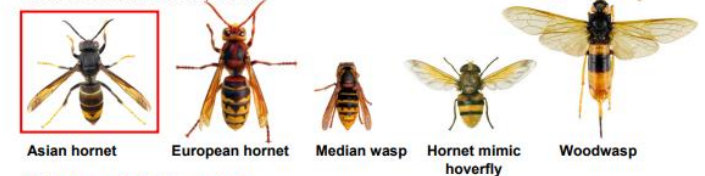


What is it?

A highly aggressive predator of native insects that poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. Originally from Asia, in 2004 this invasive non-native species was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK.



Slightly smaller than the native European hornet. May be confused with other species, shown below in actual size for comparison.



Where might I see it?

May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls. Active February to November across England and Wales.

This insect stings, do not disturb an active nest.

Please report sightings immediately with a photo:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Find out more and report a sighting:



For more information on invasive non-native species visit: nonnativespecies.org



Training Coordination Group



- Improve uptake of training among priority groups:
 - Government field staff (and contractors)
 - Stakeholder field staff
 - Environmental consultants
 - NGOs
 - University staff and students
- Work with training providers
- Help LAGs access appropriate training

Training



- 9 modules
 - Introduction
 - Recording
 - Key species ID
 - Biosecurity
 - UK OTs biosecurity
 - Water industry

NNSS eLearning

Welcome to the GB Non-native Species Secretariat online training website

The NNSS has developed a range of freely available e-learning modules to provide an introduction to non-native species, and how to identify them. Keep checking back for further modules in the future. If you have any problems accessing the e-learning please [contact the NNSS](#). You can find further resources on non-native species on the main [NNSS website](#).

Log in to the website

Please note, any accounts from the previous website have not been carried over to this new website. You will need to register again to access the e-learning. If you need copies of previous test scores or certificates please contact nnss@apha.gov.uk.

- If this is your first time here, you need to [register here](#) before you can enrol on a course.
- Existing users can [login here](#).

Enrol on a course

- [Find and enrol on a course here](#). Click on a course to enrol yourself.
- Once you have enrolled, your courses will be shown in the sidebar to the left.

Take e-learning



Pets

- Working Group
 - Pet Pathway Action Plan
 - Awareness raising campaign



The release of an exotic pet into the wild could damage our native wildlife.

Some exotic pet species are classified as **Species of Union Concern**. It is illegal to **own, sell or exchange** these species in NI, because of the great risk they may pose to our native species.

A grid of ten small images showing various exotic pet species: a raccoon, a black snake, a long-haired dog, a blue ball, a green frog, a black and white cat, a squirrel, a badger, a rabbit, and a turtle.

Find the information you need

Enter a non-native species name or the topic or resources you are looking for:

Popular searches

[Asian hornet](#)
[Water Primrose](#)
[ID sheets](#)
[Invasive Species Week](#)
[Local Action Groups \(LAGs\)](#)
[Floating pennywort](#)
[Be Plant Wise](#)
[Recording](#)


What are non-native species?

Learn what non-native and invasive



Species alerts!

View a list of current alert species to lookout for and record.



Record non-native species

Find information on identifying non-

News and Events feed

[Questionnaire for boaters](#)

17 May 2022

[Non-native species job](#)

13 May 2022

[Asian hornet sighting.](#)

10 May 2022