



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Pathway Action Plans

Defra

# The Need for Pathway Action Plans

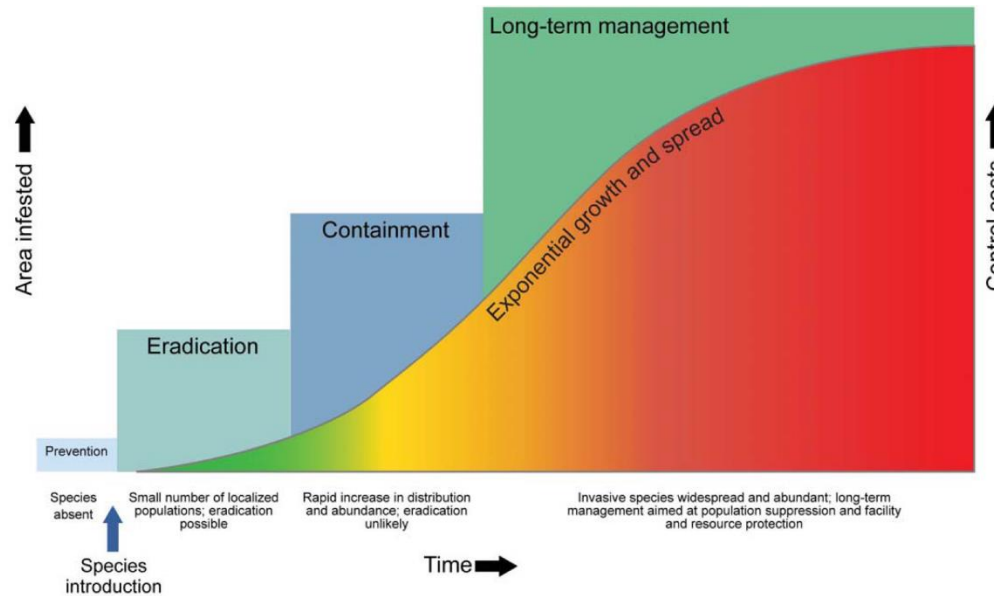
- **2,000 NNS** established in GB with **10–12 new NNS** becoming established every year
- **10–15%** of NNS established in GB cause significant adverse impacts
- **Climate change** is expected to increase the risk from many INNS



Image from: Ryzhkov Sergey, CC Attribution-ShareAlike License, [Raccoon Dog - Facts, Diet, Habitat & Pictures on Animalia.bio](#)

# The Need for Pathway Action Plans

- **Pathways** are the routes and mechanisms of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species



- Commitments to develop **pathway action plans** in domestic legislation and GB INNS Strategy

# Addressing priority pathways

- Introduction pathway assessment undertaken, considering:
  - The established NNS in GB since 1950
  - Species of special concern
- Six pathways of INNS introduction have been prioritised:
  - Hull fouling
  - Horticulture escapes
  - Contaminants of ornamental plants
  - Ballast water
  - Stowaways on fishing equipment
  - Zoo or botanic garden escapes



Image from GBNNS

# Addressing priority pathways

- PAPs already drafted:
  - Boating
  - Angling
  - Zoos
  - Horticulture (*covers horticultural escapes and contaminants of ornamental plants*)
  - *Ballast water\**
    - *Under the Ballast Water Management Convention*
- PAPs under development:
  - Exotic pets



Image from GBNNS

# What's in a PAP?

- PAPs are best practice guidance with actions that include
  - Awareness raising
  - Implementing and improving biosecurity measures
  - Promoting best practice
- PAPs DO NOT create burdens or prohibitions, or change legislation



Image from GBNNS

# Horticulture PAP: Aims and objectives

INVASIVE PLANTS	HORTICULTURAL HITCHHIKERS
Ensure that banned species are not being sold/exchanged by all routes including online.	Minimise the risk of contamination of horticulture plants and associated horticultural products entering GB.
Identify and remove the most invasive plant species or varieties from trade.	Ensure there is seamless integration between the plant health regime and the pilot NNS Inspectorate – including sharing detection notifications for non-plant health pests.
Ensure that all invasive or potentially invasive plants are correctly labelled using accepted/standard species and variety names.	Ensure that importers, nurseries and retailers know what to do if stock contaminated with invasive species is identified.
Raise awareness of the issue of invasive non-native plants amongst key target audiences in the supply chain including importers, retailers and growers.	Raise awareness among gardeners and other key target audiences in relation to hitchhikers.
Raise awareness of invasive non-native species amongst gardeners, pond and aquarium owners in order to minimise the risk of plants getting into the wild.	



# Horticulture PAP: Actions

## Horticulture Pathway Action Plan

### Actions

#### *Action 1*

INNS Inspectorate, working with PHSI as appropriate, to proactively attempt to detect the sale of banned species (including via online), respond to reports from other plant suppliers and to take forward suitable enforcement action.

#### *Action 2*

Defra, Scottish, Welsh Government, RHS and HTA will work together to raise awareness of the sector (retailers and producers mainly) about listed species, as well as providing guidance on the planting and disposal of unlisted invasive species.

#### *Action 3*

Government will propose further species for listing as species of special concern. All proposals will be prioritised before being put forward for risk assessment and consultation and final ministerial agreement.

#### *Action 4*

Defra, Scottish and Welsh Governments to work with the industry and other relevant stakeholders to identify plants that have the potential to become invasive, including those affected by our changing climate and ensure that our regulatory approach is adequate to protect our environment from them. This will take into consideration horizon scanning, which should be adapted to take better account of species that are already established in GB.

##### *Action 4A*

Horticulture industry, trades bodies, RHS and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate collation of evidence of invasive behaviour of ornamental plants, use this information as to advise consumers and share this with government bodies.

##### *Action 4B*

A reporting mechanism to be put in place for reporting ornamental plants that display invasive behaviour (e.g. via Plant Alert).



# Useful links

- [Pathway Action Plans](#)
- [GB Invasive Non-native Species Strategy 2023-2030](#)