

Volunteers can monitor sites for balsam regrowth and remove it.

In 2023, over 270 hours of volunteers time went into removing balsam from the Kent catchment.

South Cumbria Rivers Trust can train your volunteers. Get in contact with us to make arrangements.







#### ILLEGAL

To remove the plants and seeds off site, unless taking to a designated contaminated waste disposal centre.



### **HIMALYAN BALSAM WILL...**

- Out compete other plants
- Reduce the variety of nature
- Destabilise banks
- Reduce crops or grass for livestock



### IS IT POSSIBLE TO ERADICATE?

Yes, with dedicated, consistent effort over several years. It is on its way to being eradicated in some areas of South Cumbria.

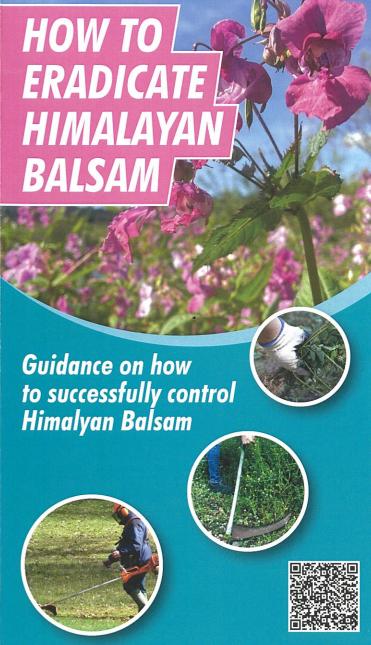


#### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

It is the landowners responsibility to prevent it spreading. The community is often happy to help.



For more information, help, training and and guidance, email: info@scrt.co.uk or visit our website: www.scrt.co.uk

















# HAND-PULLING HIMALYAN BALSAM

### Don't pull when in seed!

Grab at the base of the plant. Snap plant between the root and below the first node.



Leave to dry on site in piles. Crush by standing on the piles. For small quantities you can hang the plants up to dry. Try to combine piles to reduce risk of regrowth.



Repeat this every 3-4 weeks!

# STRIMMING HIMALYAN BALSAM

Strimming Himalyan Balsam can be be very effective if done correctly.



Cut as close to the ground as possible. You need to hit below the first node.



Plant becomes bush-like when cut too high, with more nowers and seeds.

Check 3 weeks

**Check 3** weeks later for regrowth

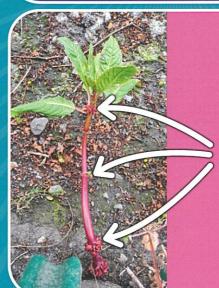
### SPRAYING HIMALYAN BALSAM

Spraying plants should be a last resort.

The herbicides used can be extremely harmful to the environment. Permission needs to be obtained from the Environment Agency and a licence is required.

Spray when plants are a couple of inches tall (approximately end of May). Herbicides can take around 3 weeks to take effect. If spraying later than June, the plant will likely go to seed.

Spraying is most effective for large areas.



Roots
beginning
to grow
abnormally
due to
ineffective
herbicide.

Not all herbicides work on Himalyan Balsam but can cause it to grow abnormally.