

VOLUNTEERS

KEY POINTS

HOW TO ERADICATE HIMALAYAN BALSAM

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.

SUPER TIP!

A cup of tea and biscuit will be highly appreciated as a little thank you and as fuel to keep going!



ILLEGAL

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



HIMALAYAN 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

Guidance on how to successfully control Himalyan Balsam



A partnership project. Co-funded by the European Union.

HAND-PULLING HIMALYAN BALSAM

Don't pull when in seed!

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



- 2** 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.



- 3** Repeat this every 3-4 weeks!

STRIMMING HIMALYAN BALSAM

Strimming Himalyan Balsam can be very effective if done correctly.

- 1** Let the plants grow until just before they flower, approximately mid to end of June.

- 2** 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 flowers and seeds.



- 3** 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.



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