

Information Sheet 1A - Invasive Plant Species Identification (INNS)

- Species that impact our rivers and native species



Himalayan balsam (up to 2m height, hexagonal stem, three-leaves per whorl, pink sweet-smelling flower)



Japanese knotweed: (cane stem, zigzag branchlets, heart-shaped leaf)



Giant hogweed (>3m+ (10') tall, jaggedly shaped leaves
Do not touch – harmful to health
(please see the information sheet 1B)



New Zealand Pygmy Weed (small narrow paired leaves -
underwater or in margins)








Water fern (floating on surface with small fern-like leaves)




Floating Pennywort (floating in rafts, waxy leaves approx. 5cm
(2") diameter max)

Information Sheet 1B – Potentially Harmful Plants Identification and Risk Assessment

Species	Image	Description	Hazard (S)	Mitigation
Giant Hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>		<p>A large plant that can grow to over 3.5m (12ft). It is related to cow parsley and carrot and looks very similar, with a thick, bristled stem that is often blotched with purple colouration, large fern like leaves and white flowers held in upward facing umbrels (clusters) each up to 60cm (2ft) across. Its whole span can be over 2m (7ft).</p>	<p>POTENTIALLY DISABLING (5)</p> <p>The sap contains furanocoumarins. When in contact with skin these can cause photodermatitis/ photosensitivity leading to burns, lesions, scaring and in very severe cases death.</p> <p>Native hogweed (<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>) is very similar and can also cause irritation but not to the same severity.</p>	<p>Avoid if possible</p> <p>Thoroughly wash affected area with COLD water and soap as soon as possible</p> <p>Keep affected area away from sunlight/UV light for at least 48 hours.</p> <p>Steroids can be used if symptoms persist.</p> <p>If eyes are affected, wash immediately and wear sunglasses.</p>
Water Dropwort <i>Oenanthe crocata</i> Aka: Hemlock Water Dropwort, Dead Man's Fingers		<p>These grow to around 1.5m (5ft) tall with stems of around 3.5cm (2"). The leaves are triangular and up to 2cm (1") long. They smell somewhat of parsley. The flowers are white and held in spherical umbrels on stalks of around 7cm (3"), flowering in June/July.</p>	<p>POTENTIALLY FATAL (5)</p> <p>All parts of the plant are extremely toxic. Although poisonings are rare, many that occur are fatal.</p>	<p>Avoid if possible</p> <p>NEVER ingest. If ingested, seek medical assistance immediately.</p> <p>Wearing gloves and keeping hands sanitised before eating should avoid poisoning.</p>

<p>Poison Hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i></p> <p>Aka: Hemlock, Wild Hemlock</p>		<p>A member of the carrot family and similar in appearance to wild carrot, these grow to around 2m (7ft) tall. The leaves are triangular and grow in clusters up to 50cm (20") long. They have white flowers clustered in upward facing umbrels.</p>	<p>POTENTIALLY FATAL (5)</p> <p>Very similar to water hemlock, all parts of the plant are toxic to all mammals. Although most cases of poisoning are through consumption, inhalation and skin contact can cause more minor poisoning. Fatal dose for an average human would be around 6 leaves.</p>	<p>Avoid if possible</p> <p>NEVER ingest. If ingested, seek medical assistance immediately.</p> <p>Do not smell.</p> <p>Wearing gloves and keeping hands sanitised before eating should avoid poisoning.</p>
<p>Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i></p> <p>Aka: common nettle, burn nettle, stinging nettle</p>		<p>These grow from 1 to 2 meters (3-7ft) during the summer but can be found year round as a smaller plant. They have tall, strong stems and triangular, serrated leaves.</p>	<p>FIRST AID INJURY (2)</p> <p>Contact with hairs on the plant can cause nettle dermatitis (irritation) and minor blistering. This can be severe if a large area is affected.</p>	<p>Use of long sleeves/trousers and gloves should prevent stings.</p> <p>If stings occur, use of hydrocortisone or antihistamine creams can relieve symptoms.</p>
<p>Lords-and-Ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i></p> <p>Many common names</p>		<p>A distinctive plant generally seen in spring. It grows to around 25cm (1ft) high and has hidden flowers that attract insects and even small mammals through smell. They have only a few, large leaves.</p>	<p>3 DAY INJURY (3)</p> <p>All parts of the plant are known to cause an allergic reaction. The berries are extremely poisonous with no known cure as well as being irritating to skin. Severe poisoning</p>	<p>Avoid if possible</p> <p>NEVER ingest. If ingested, seek medical assistance immediately.</p> <p>If touching is required, use gloves and extreme caution.</p>

			can lead to lung and renal failure.	
<p>Foxglove <i>Digitalis spp.</i></p>		<p>A genus of tall flowers, often growing up to 1.5m (5ft), they have distinctive downward facing flowers, often purple or white. Their leaves are triangular and spaces evenly spaced out along the thick stem</p>	<p>POTENTIALLY FATAL (5)</p> <p>All foxglove species are toxic to all mammals, some severely so. Although poisoning generally occurs through ingestion, skin contact can also cause poisoning in some cases. Poisoning can cause a slowing of the heart to the point of death. However, death from foxglove poisoning is very rare. The whole plant is toxic.</p>	<p>Do not touch with bare skin.</p> <p>Do not consume.</p> <p>If consumed, immediately seek medical assistance as there are drugs that can assist.</p>