

INVASIVE WEED WATCH

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

HIMALAYAN BALSAM (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Himalayan Balsam is also known as an “Poor Mans Orchid” because of its pink-purple, orchid-like flowers. The upper petal protects the reproductive structure, whereas the lower petals serves as a platform for landing insects. Its stems can grow up to 3m tall and once established, can form dense stands that shade out other native vegetation. The plant can be identified by its elliptical leaves with pointed tips. Himalayan Balsam can produce 700-800 seeds per plant that can be projected up to 5m from the parent plant and spread by water, remaining viable for up to three years even when submerged.



Photo by Paul A. Graham

Photo: Alberta Invasive Plants Council

Acting as a annual summer weed, Himalayan Balsam prefers to inhabit riparian areas. Wet soil and some soil disturbance are preferred by this prohibited noxious weed that can dominate the water edge unless it is controlled before flowering. If there is Himalayan Balsam on your property in small amounts, pulling out the plants, bagging and disposing is your best course of action. Cultivation and grazing are likely effective to manage larger infestations. However, cultivation is not practical near riparian zones. Glyphosate and 2,4-D Amine can be effective as chemical controls on young plants, but must be applied properly. Note: any herbicide applied near water bodies requires specific applicator certification and permits from Environment & Sustainable Resource Development. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman for information.

For more information also see the AIPC Plant Fact Sheets at: www.invasiveplants.ab.ca

To report Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds on crown land contact your local Environment and Sustainable Resource Development office. For weeds on all other lands contact your County/Municipality office.



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