



Inspect



Remove



Clean



Dispose



Notify



Please report sightings to
Inland Fisheries Ireland at info@fisheriesireland.ie



STOP!
The spread of
invasive species



**A major threat to
Ireland's watercourses**



This project is funded by the EU Commissions Life+ Programme February 2010 ©

1 Curly-leaved waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)
Impact:
 Grows fast and creates dense, light-excluding canopies on the water surface. Shades and deoxygenates water, blocks boat movement and angling. Impacts native species/habitats.
Identifying Features:
 Curled leaves arranged spirally up the stem. Stems can reach <5 meters long.



2 New Zealand Pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*)
Impact:
 Forms dense carpets in still waters, blocking boat movement and angling. Impacts native species/habitats.
Identifying Features:
 Plant grows in water and up bank. Leaves have a single pointed tip, grow in opposite pairs and are fleshy when plant grows in air or flatter when submerged. Flowers white.



3 Nuttall's Pondweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
Impact:
 Forms dense carpets in still waters, blocking boat movement and angling. Impacts native species/habitats.
Identifying Features:
 Stems long. Leaves grow in rings of 3-4 round stem. Leaves often curled, widest at base and pointed end.



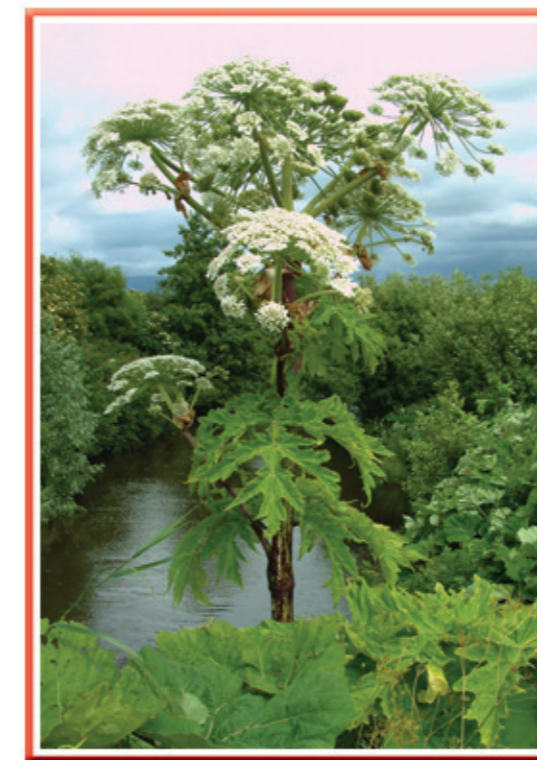
4 Red Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*)
Impact:
 Forms dense floating carpets in still waters that shade and deoxygenate water.
Identifying Features:
 Tiny, free-floating water plant. Leaves are rough and fern-like with a non-wettable surface and usually a pinkish/red tinge.



5 Giant Rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*)
Impacts:
 Large umbrella-leaved plant. Forms heavily shading canopy excluding native flora, once established spreads prolifically.
Identifying Features:
 Resembles the common rhubarb but much larger (<2 meters across and <3 height). Produces single flower cone-like flower.



6 Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
Impact:
 Detrimental to human health: Sap produced by plant is photo-sensitive and can cause serious skin inflammations can be serious / fatal in infants. Shades and out-competes native plants.
Identifying Features:
 Resembles a larger (<5m height) version of Cow Parsley, with canopy-forming leaves, large umbrella-shaped white flower head. Leaves sharply divided and serrated.



7 Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)
Impact:
 Reduces soil stability when plant dies back during winter and roots interfere with building foundations. Plant competes with native species.
Identifying Features:
 Tall bank-side plant with bamboo-like stems. Often grows into dense thickets. Stems with purple/red freckles. Leaves rounded triangle shape with base of triangle flat to stem. Flowers white/cream in frothy fronds.



8 Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
Impact:
 Reduces soil stability when plant dies back during winter. Plant competes with native species.
Identifying Features:
 Tall, attractive, annual plant. Pink-purple trumpet flowers and fleshy, hollow stem. Leaves have serrated edge and pointed tip with a pink/purple tinged veins. Seeds capsules are green/purple and pop to the touch when mature.



9 Dace (*Leuciscus leuciscus*)
Impact:
 Compete with native fish (especially Salmonids) for food and spawning grounds.
Identifying Features:
 Small, slim-line fish. Tail is deeply forked. Sides of body are silver to dark bluish/green along the back. The eye is yellow.



10 Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)
Summary description:
 Prolific filter feeder removing plankton from water, significantly altering food-webs. Attaches to anything solid (e.g. boat hulls), causing serious impacts to water intake pipes/cooling systems.
Identifying Features:
 Small freshwater bi-valve, D-shaped mussel with a distinctive stripes (blue, blackish or brown against yellow-white alternating zig-zag or wavy bands).



11 Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)
Impact:
 Grows in High abundance (up to 10,000/m²) can seriously reduce planktonic food required by other fish/invertebrates; Alter fish spawning habitats.
Identifying Features:
 Shells up to 35 mm, yellow to brown in color – often with white spots/ scratches. The shells are cockle shaped, but with raised thick, concentric rings on the shell which run parallel to the gape opening.



12 Chinese Mitten Crab (*Erocheir sinensis*)
Impact:
 Burrows into river banks reducing bank stability. Competes and preys on native fish and invertebrates.
Identifying Features:
 Estuarine/freshwater crab with distinctive hairy claws (mittens). Body green/brown color and can measure up to 8cm across.



13 Bloody-red Shrimp (*Hemimysis anomala*)
Impact:
 Populations can out-compete native invertebrates and seriously reduce the amount of planktonic food available.
Identifying Features:
 Small crustacean (6-13mm). In large numbers they can form a distinct red coloured blooms at the water surface. Close up, Shrimp is cream or translucent with a distinctive red vein running along body length.

