

Bothered by Balsam?

Advice and support is at hand for the pesky pink plant, Himalayan balsam!



Get hands on

Himalayan balsam is a highly invasive plant species which threatens Snowdonia's native flora. Here's how you can help:

Read our factfile

- Go to www.snowdonia-society.org.uk/balsam for detailed information about the plant and its removal.

Remove by handpulling

- Start in May and repeat every few weeks to prevent plants from producing seed.
- Shake off the soil and hang out to dry or place in piles to rot down.
- Stamp on large piles to aid rotting.

Strimming

- Strimming should take place from June onwards to allow other plants a longer growing season.
- Strim as low down as possible (below the lowest node).

Do:

- ✓ Revisit affected areas in following years to ensure the plant has been successfully removed.
- ✓ Wear long sleeves, long trousers and gloves to protect against brambles, nettles and beasts.
- ✓ Get land owners' permission when working or mapping on private property.
- ✓ Take care not to carry seed on the soles of shoes.

Don't:

- ✗ Pull or strim plant once it's seeded as this can cause further spread (see our online fact file).
- ✗ Leave plants lying in wet areas as it can regrow: Hang them up or squash on dry ground.
- ✗ Move off site or take to the tip as this is likely to cause further spread.



Still bothered by balsam?

Eradicating Himalayan balsam can seem a big challenge, however there is light at the end of the tunnel as its seeds only last for a maximum of three years in the soil. So that's just three years of effort to help eradicate this pesky pink plant! We are here to help with:

- Practical 'Balsam Bashing' days & training
- Further information & free online resources:
 - / Plant identification sheet
 - / Himalayan balsam fact file
 - / Common questions answered
- Talks and presentations to groups looking to tackle Himalayan balsam in their local communities.

Contact us:

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