



Himalayan Balsam

Facts and Figures

Himalayan Balsam :
Policeman's Helmet, Bobby
or Copper Tops

HABITAT Originates from the Himalayas, introduced to UK in 1839. Found on river banks in UK and Europe prolific along River Wye.

GROWING SEASON

Germinates Jan - March
Flowers July - October Seed
pods spread July - August.
800 seeds per plant.

In autumn dies back to leave river banks bare and exposed.

HOW DO I RECOGNISE?

Green serrated leaves with red veins. Hollow light weight stem. Pink flowers with hues of white pink and very ornate hood like shape. Shallow rooted so very easy to handpick. Grows 2.5m high.

FOOD SOURCE A non poisonous plant. Eaten by aphids, Elephant Hawk moths, cows & sheep. Flowers and young leaves can be used in salads – bitter taste.



Sarah Petter

Himalayan Balsam- over shadows native species and contributes to river bank soil erosion on the Wye

Himalayan Balsam is a non native plant that was introduced in Victorian times. It is now widespread on the banks on European rivers, here in UK it is prolific near our River Wye.

Unfortunately it overshadows native species and contributes to soil erosion around river banks. It loves moist watery areas such as rivers and ditches and grows rapidly. Whilst it produces lots of juicy nectar that our bees love, this can leave some of our native plants unpollinated, Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds; each seed can survive up to 2 years before germinating.

If we simply hand pick Himalyan Balsam we can stop the overshadowing of our native plants and ensure that our river banks aren't left bare over the colder seasons when our River Wye floods, so reducing the amount of soil erosion.

Further Information: -https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Good_Practice_Management_-_Himalayan_balsam.pdf

Join Kings Capse Environment Group to remove Himalayan Balsam

10.00 -12.00 **24th June**
(alongside litter picking event)

Meet: Old School Hall

Bring :- Sturdy boots and gardening type gloves

Hand pull Himalyan balsam before it seeds

Leave Himalyan Balsam in situ to die back

All litter pickers & bags provided

