

STOP THE INVASION



HIMALAYAN BALSAM PRODUCES UP TO 2500 SEEDS PER PLANT. SEEDS ARE EJECTED FROM PODS UP TO 5M TO INFEST NEW AREAS FAR AND FAST!

UNWANTED PLANTS

Origin

Originally from India and the western Himalayas, Himalayan balsam is also known as Policeman's helmet, Indian balsam, Arctic orchid and Poor Man's orchid. It was introduced to many parts of Europe, New Zealand and North America as a garden ornamental.

Status

It is found in 8 provinces including Manitoba, and locally in some gardens and one or two river bank areas within Winnipeg.

Impacts

A member of the Touch-Me-Not family, the seed pods of this plant will explode when touched and send seeds all over the garden. It should not be used to beautify natural areas, as individual plants will aggressively grow and naturalize. Dense stands can form which prevent establishment of native plants, make stream banks vulnerable to erosion when the shallow-rooted plants die back, and reduce overall biodiversity and ecological value of the land.

Where to Look

Invades agricultural areas, natural forests, disturbed areas, rangelands, riverbanks, wetlands and gardens.

LOOK FOR:

- ◇ EARLY, FAST-GROWING TALL ANNUAL (APPROX. HEIGHT OF A SUNFLOWER).
- ◇ FLOWERS: 2.5 TO 4 CM LONG, ATTRACTIVE, PINK TO PURPLE IN COLOUR WITH ORCHID-LIKE SHAPE.
- ◇ LEAVES: TOOTHED, OPPOSITE OR IN WHORLS OF THREE AROUND THE STEM.
- ◇ STEMS: SMOOTH, PINK-TINGED AND HOLLOW. EASILY BROKEN.



PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD!

Individual plants can be easily hand-pulled due to a shallow root system. Vigilance to remove seedlings in following years will ensure the plant can be quickly eradicated!

Report a Sighting!

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