

PROVINCIAL
DESIGNATION

**Prohibited
Noxious**

Weed must be
destroyed
when found

Himalayan Balsam

(*Impatiens glandulifera*)



ALSO KNOWN AS...

Poor man's orchid, purple jewelweed,
British policeman's helmet, Indian balsam, ornamental jewelweed

IDENTIFICATION

Flowers

Colour: Pink or white

Bloom time: Late June-early September

Noteworthy: Resembles a British policeman's hat in shape

Leaves

Colour: Green with red mid vein

Shape: Elliptic with pointed tips, 0.5-5 cm (3/16-2 inch) wide, 6-15 cm (2 3/8-6 inch) long

Edges: Serrated with glands

Position on stem: They are arranged oppositely or in threes

Stem

Colour: Stem has a purple-tinge in spring

Height: Hollow stems, up to 3 m (10 ft) tall at maturity

Seeds

Colour: Green and red seed pods

Seed time: Mid July-late October

THREATS

- Himalayan Balsam can escape from private yards and invade creeks, ravines, and moist woodlands in the river valley.
- Where established, it displaces vegetation required by native wildlife.
- Seeds can be transported by water, which helps this weed to spread quickly along waterways, including Edmonton's stormwater system.
- It's very attractive to pollinators, which reduces the pollination of native plants.
- Its shallow root system and fast die-off during winter can cause soil erosion.

CONTROL

- Do not handle or attempt to rid this weed when seed pods appear.
- Control should be done shortly before or during early blooming.
- For small patches, pull the weed by hand and include its root.
- For large patches, mow at ground level.
- Do not compost any invasive plants.
- Dispose removed plant material together with regular household waste.
- Monitor your yard for the appearance of new plants for at least 2 years.
- Selective herbicides which are targeted to kill this specific weed are not registered in Canada.
- Non-selective herbicides which are targeted to kill all vegetation might work but should be applied only as a last resort. If using non-selective herbicides, make sure the product only comes into contact with the invasive species. All herbicide applications must follow label instructions.
- Clean equipment and clothing after coming into contact with invasive weeds and the soil they grow in.



To learn more visit
edmonton.ca/weeds

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