

Invasive Species Management

We are specialists in controlling both native and non-native species. Non-native species are the most damaging to the environment and the most costly to remove. The responsibility for dealing with invasive weeds rests with the landowner. Allowing their spread or incorrect disposal of waste matter can incur major penalties.



Japanese Knotweed

Has an extensive root system that can extend for several metres, break through hard surfaces like tarmac and penetrate the foundation of houses. Early identification and management is key to control, which is best effected by herbicide treatment.



Giant Hogweed

A potential danger to public health, giant hogweed secretes a poisonous sap. Even the slightest touch can cause swelling, blistering and severe irritation. Herbicide treatment is the most effective means of treatment, but mechanical means can be implemented under extreme care if required.



Himalayan Balsam

Rapidly colonises river banks and damp ground smothering all other plants in its vicinity. In autumn it leaves banks bare of vegetation and liable to erosion. Early herbicide treatment can be effective. Mowing or strimming on a regular basis may eradicate the plant altogether.



Ragwort

Poisonous to horses and other grazing animals, causing potentially fatal liver damage. Herbicide treatment in spring and early summer is recommended. Ragwort remains toxic even when treated or wilted, so effective disposal or exclusion of livestock is a major factor in controlling it.



Australian Swamp Stonecrop

The rapid growth of this species out-competes native plants, absorbs all available nutrients and chokes ponds and ditches. Early identification is vital. Regular herbicide treatment is required. Dredging out marginal and emergent vegetation can also be effective.



Water Fern

Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*) is a highly invasive water weed, which is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. It is a very small free-floating water plant that forms dense mats. Control options comprise of either biological methods or pesticide application.



Floating Pennywort

A dense interwoven mat of vegetation quickly covers water surfaces, disrupting the ecology and amenity use. Herbicide treatments with approved adjuvants can be effective, as can cutting and removal. Waste needs to be deposited well away from the water.

Invasive Species Services at a glance:

- Invasive Species Identification
- Invasive Species Control
- Invasive Species Management Plans
- Invasive Species Clerk of Works



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