



## How will the data be used?

All records of reported plants can be accessed on the webpage. At least once a year we will publish a summary of all records received on the webpage and in the BSBI News. Data collected will be used in risk assessments of species as well as to provide gardeners and nurseries with advice on which plants could also become difficult to manage in gardens.

## How to use Plant Alert

Plant Alert is a permanent reporting tool to use whenever you notice a potentially invasive ornamental plant. The webpage is designed to work well on mobile phones also offline, so you can take pictures and report plants directly from your garden. Please also encourage other gardeners to use Plant Alert.

See the [plantalert.org](http://plantalert.org) webpage for further information on plant invasions.

You can also follow us on twitter [@Plant\\_Alert](https://twitter.com/Plant_Alert)  
You can contact us at [support@plantalert.org](mailto:support@plantalert.org)

## Why report invasive garden plants?

Invasive non-native plants are causing major problems for native biodiversity, ecosystems, infrastructure, the built environment and human health. Most of our invasive plants were introduced as ornamental garden plants but then escaped into the wider environment.

To prevent more species becoming invasive, gardeners can contribute by reporting early signs of invasiveness of ornamental plants in gardens.



Research Centre  
Agroecology, Water  
and Resilience



# Reporting potentially invasive ornamental garden plants

[www.plantalert.org](http://www.plantalert.org)

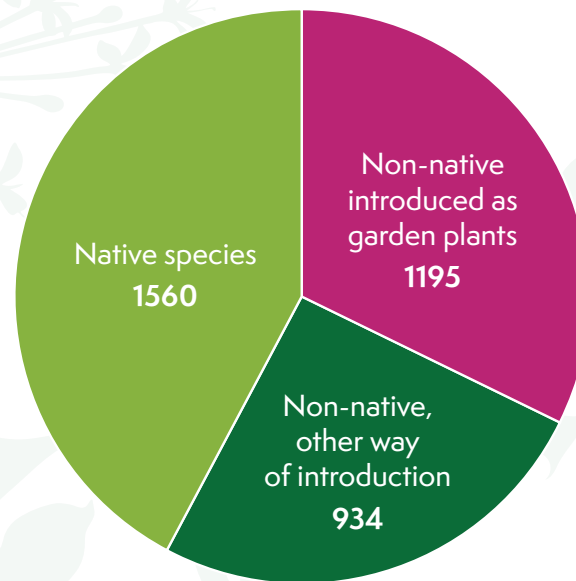
## Are all non-native plants a problem?

Only a minority of escaped ornamental species are causing problems. Well known examples in the British Isles include Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and several aquatic plants. The challenge is to identify the potential future problematic plants out of about 70,000 ornamental plants available to gardeners in Britain.

### Did you know?

More than half of the species in the British Flora are non-native and most of these are garden escapes.

## Native & non-native plant species



## Keeping ornamental plants in the garden

While maintaining the benefits and contributions of non-native plants to our gardens, we need to know at an early stage which of those plants might go on to endanger habitats outside gardens. Gardeners can play a crucial role here: you are likely to be the first to notice any ornamental plants showing signs of invasiveness.



Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

## Which plants should be reported?

Many ornamental plants in your garden will spread and this is a sign that they are growing well. We only want to know about those that are spreading to an extent that you have to control them to prevent them overgrowing other plants or parts of your garden where you do not want them.

If you do not know a plant you want to report or are not sure, you can submit photographs and we will use to help with identification.

## How to report a plant

Go to our webpage at [www.plantalert.org](http://www.plantalert.org)



American skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)