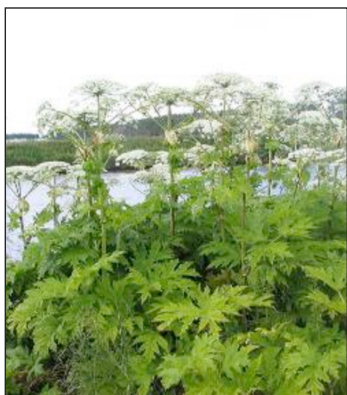




**Himalayan Balsam** produces more than 500 seeds before it dies. The slightest touch to seed pods causes them to burst open catapulting and dispersing the seeds up to 7m away. It grows up to 2.5m tall and the stem is pinky red, hollow, sappy and brittle.

Leaves occur in two's or three's from the same point on the stem, are spear shaped with serrated edges, shiny and dark green with a reddish mid-rib.

Flowers, which are similar to a Foxglove, are purplish pink, carried on long stalks and appear from June to October.



**Giant Hogweed** is now wide spread throughout the UK. It grows to over 5m tall. The seeds can remain viable on or in the ground for up to 15 years.

The plant contains large amounts of poisonous sap, which, on contact with the skin and in the presence of sunlight, causes severe irritation, swelling and painful watery blisters. This reaction can occur up to 24 hours after exposure to sunlight. Contact with eyes can cause temporary blindness.

Giant Hogweed can cause significant harm to grazing animals.

## DO

- ✓ Stop work in the immediate area and contact your manager for instruction if you think you have identified either Himalayan Balsam or Giant Hogweed on your site.
- ✓ Wear protective clothing before touching Giant Hogweed and seek medical advice if you have been in contact with the sap.

## DON'T

- ✗ DON'T disturb the seedpods.
- ✗ DON'T move soil that may contain seeds or other plant materials without specific instructions.
- ✗ DON'T handle Giant Hogweed until further advice is taken.