

Invasive Non-Native Plants (INNP): A practical guide for operatives

This document has been prepared to help you identify **Invasive Non-Native Plants (INNP)** and your responsibilities should you see any of the following:



JAPANESE KNOTWEED -

Shield or spade-shaped leaves with a flat base and a pointed tip. Bamboo-like hollow stems with purple flecking. Red asparagus-like shoots emerging in spring.



GUNNERA -

Massive umbrella-like leaves (2m+). Thick stalks with spines. Large cone or spike-like flower heads.



HIMALAYAN BALSAM -

Pink, helmet-shaped flowers. Serrated leaves arranged in opposite pairs or whorls. Seed pods that explode when touched.



MONTBRETIA -

Bright orange or red flowers with arching stems. Sword-shaped leaves. Dense underground corm clusters.



GIANT HOGWEED -

*Huge white umbrella-shaped flower heads. Thick stems with purple blotches and coarse white hairs. Massive, deeply lobed leaves. Grows up to 5m or more in height. **WARNING** - do not touch!*



FIELD HORSETAIL (commonly mislabelled as 'Marestail') -

Green bottle-brush appearance. Distinct segmented, jointed stems. Brown fertile shoots in early spring before green growth.



RHODODENDRON -

Large evergreen glossy leaves. Purple to lilac funnel-shaped flowers. Forms dense, impenetrable thickets in woodland.



FURTHER GUIDANCE -

Scan the QR code to download an electronic version of a longer guidance document on INNP, which includes additional images for identification purposes.

What to do if you think you have identified an INNP on site:

ACTIONS:

- Stop works in that area **immediately**
- Take a photograph and record the location and date
- Report this to your supervisor
- Prevent any vehicle or plant movement through the area
- Follow biosecurity measures put in place for the remainder of the project.

BIOSECURITY:

Biosecurity is the range of measures we take to prevent the accidental spread of invasive non-native plants.

- Ensure clothing, boots and machinery are free from mud and dirt before entering a site
- Use fencing and signage to define contaminated areas
- Stick to designated haulage routes and access points
- Listen to briefings and updates on biosecurity
- Avoid disturbing any contaminated soil unless essential
- Ensure you follow any controls relating to high-risk areas
- Clean tools, machinery, and vehicles regularly
- Store waste securely on hard standing until disposal
- End of job – complete a final clean down of machinery and clothing.

*Follow the **Check, Clean, Dry** method to prevent the spread of INNP:*



CHECK

Check your equipment and plant, including tracks, clothing, boots, and any watercraft for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.



CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to areas that are damp or hard to access. Use hot water if possible.



DRY

Dry everything for as long as you can before using elsewhere, as some invasive plants and animals can survive for **over two weeks** in damp conditions.