

Invasive Species Key - Animals



American mink



Zebra mussel



Chinese mitten crab



Killer shrimp



**Asian
hornet**



Signal crayfish

Invasive Species Key - Plants



Japanese knotweed



Floating pennywort



Curly waterweed



Water Primrose



Himalayan balsam



Water Lettuce



Parrot's feather



Giant Hog Weed

Invasive Species Card



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Invasive Species Cards



Invasive Species Labels

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Invasive Species Information



Japanese knotweed

Grows in dense thickets reaching 2.5-3m in height. Japanese can re-grow from fragments as small as a little fingernail. It outcompetes native plants, contributes to riverbank erosion, increases flood risk and damages structures - it can grow through asphalt, concrete and brickwork!



American mink

Mostly nocturnal or active at dusk. Predates native wildlife including water voles, sea birds, domestic fowl and fish.



Himalayan balsam

A tall (up to 2m) annual plant with scented pink flowers. Grows in dense stands.

Out-competes native species by forming dense stands. Dense stands can impede river flow increasing flood risk. Die back over winter can leave riverbanks bare and exposed to erosion.



Parrot's feather

Bright blue-green, feather-like leaves. Causes flooding by blocking watercourses and drainage channels. Can rapidly dominate a water body outcompeting native species.



Signal crayfish

Lobster-like and the underside of the adult's claws are bright red. Huge impact on native crayfish as they spread 'crayfish plague', a fungus-like disease that is lethal to the endangered native, White-clawed crayfish and are direct competition.

Invasive Species Information



Zebra mussel

Filters algae and other food from the water so efficiently that there is no food left in the water for mayfly larvae, caddisfly larvae, and small fish. Zebra mussels also clog water intake pipes and attach to the sides of boats and docks.



Floating pennywort

Shiny, kidney-shaped leaves with crinkled edge. Forms thick mats of floating or emergent leaves. Out competes native species by blocking out light and reducing oxygen in water. Can cause accidents when animals and humans mistake water covered with floating pennywort for land!

Asian hornet abdomen



European hornet abdomen



Asian hornet

A highly aggressive predator of native insects like the rare shrill carder bee which is found on the Gwent Levels.

DANGER! This hornet stings. Do not disturb an active nest.



Demon shrimp & Killer shrimp

Easily attaches to clothing and equipment.

These predators quickly dominate habitats outcompeting native species for food, altering the ecology



Giant hogweed



Hazardous – DO NOT TOUCH! The plant produces a toxic sap, which in contact with human skin and combined with UV radiation causes recurring skinburns.

Its flowering stems can be 2-3 m high with flowers up to 80 cm in diameter. A single plant produces about 20,000 seedlings! Out-competes native species by forming dense stands reducing species diversity.



Curly waterweed

Rapidly dominates a water body outcompeting native species, reducing biodiversity. Can also block intakes and reduces flood storage capacity. Don't buy from any outlets for aquariums and water gardens. Often labelled 'oxygenating plant'- it is against the law for it to be sold.

Invasive Species Information



Chinese mitten crab aka Moon crab

Pincers covered in hair, giving the appearance of mittens! They damage banks/flood defences by burrowing into them, silt up gravel beds used for fish spawning and outcompete the native, white-clawed crayfish.



Water primrose

A creeping plant that spreads out into water. The dense floating mat reduces light levels and can cause oxygen depletion. This can lead to a loss of native plants and wildlife in addition to the physical problems caused from clogging up waterways and drainage systems.



Water lettuce

Looks like a small lettuce. Forms a thick carpet on water surface stopping sunlight and lowering oxygen, causing a decline in native plant and animal life. (reducing biodiversity.) Also blocks water intakes and reduces flood storage capacity.

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For more information on recording INNS, species information, current projects, treatment please visit the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat website:

www.nonnativespecies.org

See Natural Resources Wales Invasive Alien [Species Licensing](#) pages for further information on plants and animals covered by the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement & Permitting) Order 2019.