

## Himalayan balsam

### *Impatiens glandulifera*

#### Description

Can be distinguished vegetatively from natives, which have alternate leaves. Sometimes referred to as "Indian" or "Himalayan balsam".

#### Habit

Herbaceous annual, reaching 2 m (6.5 ft) in height; succulent.

#### Leaves

Opposite to whorled (at least some of them), stalked, egg-shaped to elliptic, sharply and closely saw-toothed; 6-15 cm long.

#### Stems

Erect to ascending; often branched; glabrous; 2 m (6.5 ft) tall; purplish-tinged; 6-sided in cross-section.





## **Flowers**

Purple, magenta, pink, blue or white in color;  
irregular, borne on elongated axillary peduncles,  
3 sepals, pouched, with short recurved spur;  
blooms in summer.

## **Fruits and Seeds**

Seed pod, elastically dehiscent, 1.5-2.5 cm long, many-seeded.

## **Habitat**

Native to the Himalayas. Found in moist habitats including stream and riverbanks, ditches, meadows, swamps and floodplain forests.

## **Reproduction**

By abundant, explosive seed, which also spreads by water.

## **Similar**

Orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and Pale touch-me-not (*Impatiens pallida*).

## **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling, mowing or cutting; effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides.

## **Credits**

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