



Make way for Biodiversity

After habitat destruction, invasive non-native species are the most serious threat to global biodiversity. Many plants are introduced over here from other countries as they make our gardens look pretty year-round. From our gardens, they make their way into the wild and can sometimes have a very negative effect on native species. There are 1,402 non-native plants established in the wild in Great Britain, of which 108 (8%) are stated to have a negative impact.



The problem comes when these species compete with species that we would naturally find in the UK. If the invader wins the competition, then our native species is wiped out in that area. There are no rules in this competition to say that our native species can't have some help though!

Your challenge is to:

- 1: Research non-native invasive species and try to identify if there are any in your school or community. Some are easy to identify, like Himalayan Balsam, but some can be quite tricky.
- 2: Share your findings with pupils, staff and parents so that everyone understands the problem.
- 3: Arrange a 'tackling invasives' event, in conjunction with your local Keep Wales Tidy project officer. Balsam Bashing in the summer and autumn can be great fun as well as being of great importance. There are strict guidelines for disposal of some invasive species so make sure you liaise with your local project officer for support.

You can find out more information at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=530>

Please let us know if you take part in a challenge by emailing eco-schools@keepwalestidy.cymru or tweeting @EcoSchoolsWales