

Grey Squirrel

Why is it a threat?

- Causes steep decline of native red squirrel populations
- Carries the Parapox virus, fatal for native red squirrels
- Can damage trees by removing bark

What does it look like?

- Mostly grey in colour
- Long bushy tail
- Larger than native red squirrel
- Shorter front legs
- Smooth ears, no prominent tufts

Where is it found?

Mature woodlands but also agricultural lands, planted forests, scrub or shrublands, and often seen in urban areas and parks.

What do I do next?

If you think you have spotted a grey squirrel
Report your sighting via CEDaR Online Recording
or via the iRecord app. Sightings can also be reported
to Glens Red Squirrel Group via their website or
Facebook page.



For more information

Visit Invasive Species Ireland



Causeway Coast &
Glens Heritage Trust

Rhododendron (Ponticum)

Why is it a threat?

- Dense growth of plant crowds out native plant species
- Damages sensitive habitats and ecosystems
- Can block paths and public access

What does it look like?

- Lilac, pink or purple flowers with yellow spots
- Dark green leathery leaves with a pale underside
- Stems can be up to 15cm thick and can reach 5m

Where is it found?

Common on acid, peaty or sandy soils in woodland, heathland, rocky hillsides, rivers banks, gardens and parks. Historically planted in gardens and large estates.

What do I do next?

If you think you have spotted a rhododendron ponticum
Report your sighting via CEDaR Online Recording
or via the iRecord app.



For more information

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Causeway Coast &
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Japanese Knotweed

Why is it a threat?

- Can grow through tarmac and concrete, can cause serious damage to property
- Dense growth of plant crowds out native plant species
- Damages sensitive habitats and ecosystems, such as river banks
- Extremely persistent and difficult to remove once established

What does it look like?

- Cream coloured flowers in summer which extend in fronds
- Heart/shield shaped verdant green leaves
- Bamboo like stem which is purple speckled
- Grows up to 3m in height

Where is it found?

Can thrive in a range of conditions but often found near water on riverbanks, along roadsides or in ditches or verges.

What do I do next?

If you think you have spotted Japanese knotweed
Report your sighting via CEDaR Online Recording
or via the iRecord app.



For more information

Visit Invasive Species Ireland –
includes advice for property owners



Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust

Giant Hogweed

Why is it a threat?

- Sap can cause blistering of the skin following exposure to sunlight

DO NOT TOUCH

- Dense growth of plant crowds out native plant species
- Damages sensitive habitats and ecosystems, including riverbanks
- Can block paths and public access

What does it look like?

- White flowers presenting in a distinctive circular (umbel) formation up to 80cm wide
- Plant is tall, can grow vertically up to 5m
- Leaves are large (up to 2.5m across), serrated edges and bristles on underside
- Stem is hollow and is green with purple patches
- The key is in the name 'Giant', not to be confused with other similar smaller species such as cow parsley and hogweed

Where is it found?

Bogs, fens, grasslands, woodland, urban, agricultural and horticultural areas, waterbodies and riverbanks.

What do I do next?

If you think you have spotted giant hogweed -

DO NOT TOUCH OR ATTEMPT REMOVAL

Report your sighting via CEDaR Online Recording or via the iRecord app.



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Causeway Coast &
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Himalayan Balsam

Why is it a threat?

- Dense growth of plant crowds out native plant species
- Damages sensitive habitats and ecosystems, such as river banks
- Can impede flow of rivers and streams increasing flooding risks

What does it look like?

- Trumpet shaped flower, usually in shades of pink, purple or white
- Stem is hollow and brittle - green to red early in the year, turning pink to red in summer
- Leaves have finely serrated edges, leaves and side branches arise from stem joints
- Seed capsules, approx. 1 inch long and explode when touched

Where is it found?

Riverbanks, waterbodies and damp ground.

What do I do next?

If you think you have spotted himalayan balsam
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