

# Balsam Bashing 8 Point Plan

Your simple guide to leading a Balsam Bashing task day

## Equipment check list

- ☐ Gloves for all attendees
- ☐ Alcohol/Hand gel wipes
- ☐ Copy of Risk Assessment
- ☐ Biosecurity Kit
- ☐ Register
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Biscuits

4



## Plan your day

Review your equipment list and make sure you have everything you need. Don't forget your Biosecurity kits and biscuits for your attendees!

5



## Lead your team

Set out the structure of the day with your attendees. Let them know when breaks can be expected including tea breaks and lunch breaks. Communicate why controlling INNS are important to native wildlife (see overleaf)

6



## Demonstrate the task

Before you begin demonstrate the best practice control methods and explain why this is important. For hand-pulling and cutting techniques see overleaf.

7



## Perform biosecurity measures

Don't forget to undertake the biosecurity procedure (see overleaf) at the end of the day. All attendees must get involved and clean off any debris before leaving site. It's also a great time to thank everyone for their help!

8



## Record your activity

Don't forget to take before and after photos and to upload treatment activity onto INNS Mapper [www.ywt-data.org/inns-mapper](http://www.ywt-data.org/inns-mapper)

1



## Choose your site

Choose a site where action is going to make a difference. This could be the highest infection point on a river or stream, or a local green space which is particularly effected by Balsam. Make sure plants can be accessed safely by volunteers

2



## Complete your Risk Assessment

Complete your risk assessment to ensure you have identified the hazards and how these can be controlled. Remember to share this with attendees on the day.

3



## Set your date and spread the word

Set a date and time for your balsam bash. Use posters, flyers and social media to promote the day within the local community. Invite your friends and community groups.

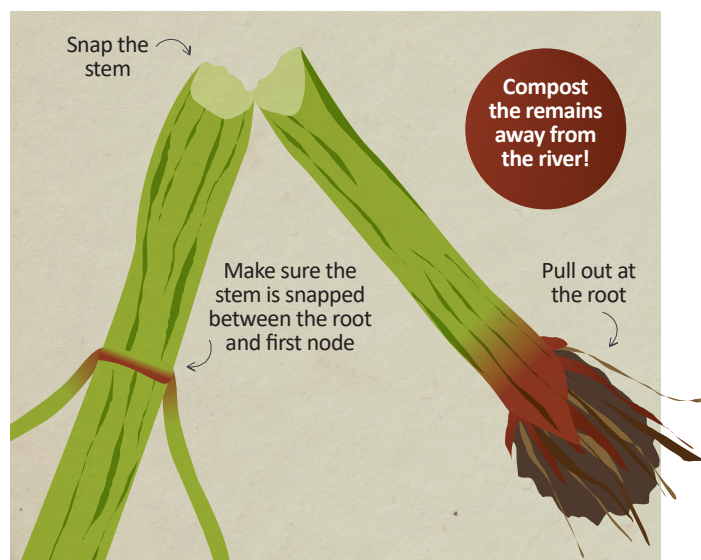
# Balsam Bashing Task Days

## Demonstrating the task

**REMEMBER: Himalayan balsam should only be controlled before it sets seed in late summer.**

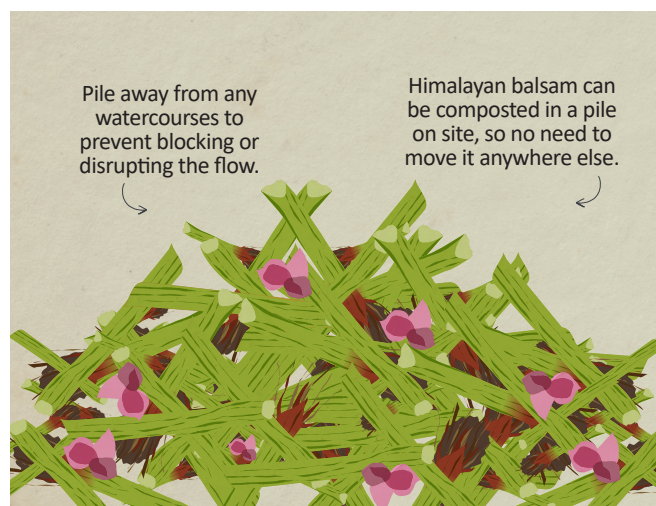
### Hand-pulling

Pull shallow rooted plants out completely and snap stem between root and first node to prevent further regrowth. Compost on site away from river as to not obstruct flow.



### Cutting/strimming

Cut at ground level using a sythe, machete, flail or strimmer. Ensure stems are cut below the first node to prevent regrowth.



## Why control Himalayan balsam?

Balsam can completely take over river banks and woodland, crowding our native species and reducing biodiversity. Balsam dies back over the winter, leaving bare banks which are susceptible to erosion, negatively impacting upon aquatic ecosystems.



It's crucial Himalayan balsam is pulled before it produces seed. If you pull it after seed production you could be spreading new balsam plants!

Balsam seeds aren't very robust and can only last 18 months in the soil. So a couple of years of balsam bashing can be very effective!

## BIOSECURITY PROCEDURE

To be performed by all on site following balsam bash



**Check all clothing, footwear and equipment for visible debris and seeds.**



**Clean all footwear and outerwear ensuring removal of all debris, rinse with water.**



**Soak footwear in hot water for 15 minutes to ensure any remaining INNS are disposed. Allow footwear and equipment to dry thoroughly before re-use.**