



# EASTERN UP INVASIVE: Himalayan Balsam

*Impatiens glandulifera*



Photo by B. Tokarska-Guzik

## WHY THE CONCERN?

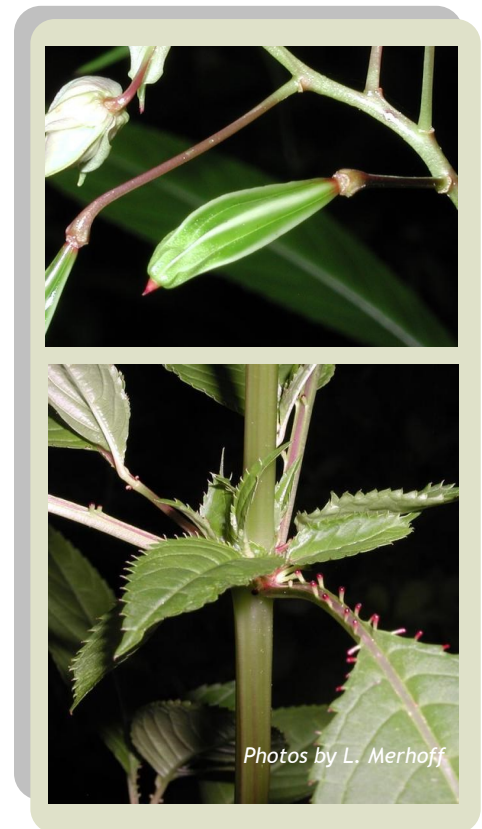
Planted as an ornamental, Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is a non-native flower. It competes heavily with native species and alters the behavior and composition of pollinating insects. If allowed to monopolize a streambank, Himalayan balsam's shallow roots can lead to erosion.

## FEATURES OF HIMALAYAN BALSAM

This plant grows 3-6ft tall with showy pink flowers reminiscent of orchids. The stems are hollow and smooth with a purple or reddish tinge. Ripe seed capsules explode when touched. The native species jewelweed is a look-alike with orange flowers.

## CONTROL METHOD

Mechanical control, by repeated cutting, mowing, or grazing, is effective for large stands. Himalayan balsam can be controlled by spraying the foliage with glyphosate. The plants should be treated in the spring before flowering. Do not disturb plants if seeds pods are visible. For additional advice about identifying or controlling this invasive species, please contact Biological Services at (906) 248-8652.



Photos by L. Merhoff

Photos courtesy of Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, University of Silesia, and Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Bay Mills Indian Community  
Biological Services  
www.baymills.org

12140 Lakeshore Dr  
Brimley, MI 49715  
906-248-3241

This publication made possible by  
the Great Lakes Restoration  
Initiative.