



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



PLANT PROFILE

Heart-leaved houttuynia

POTENTIALLY
INVASIVE

FACTS

ID

TAKE
ACTION

TIPS

MORE
PROFILES

Species description

Scientific name:
Houttuynia cordata

Other names:
Fish-plant

Native to:
Eastern Himalayas to Japan

Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
Welsh Government

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Interesting facts

Potential impacts:

Heart-leaved houttuynia forms dense mats that can exclude other plants.

Habitat:

Prefers damp conditions such as pond edges, ditches, marshland or woodland.

A herbaceous perennial and vigorously spreading ground cover. Leaves have a pungent smell when rubbed.

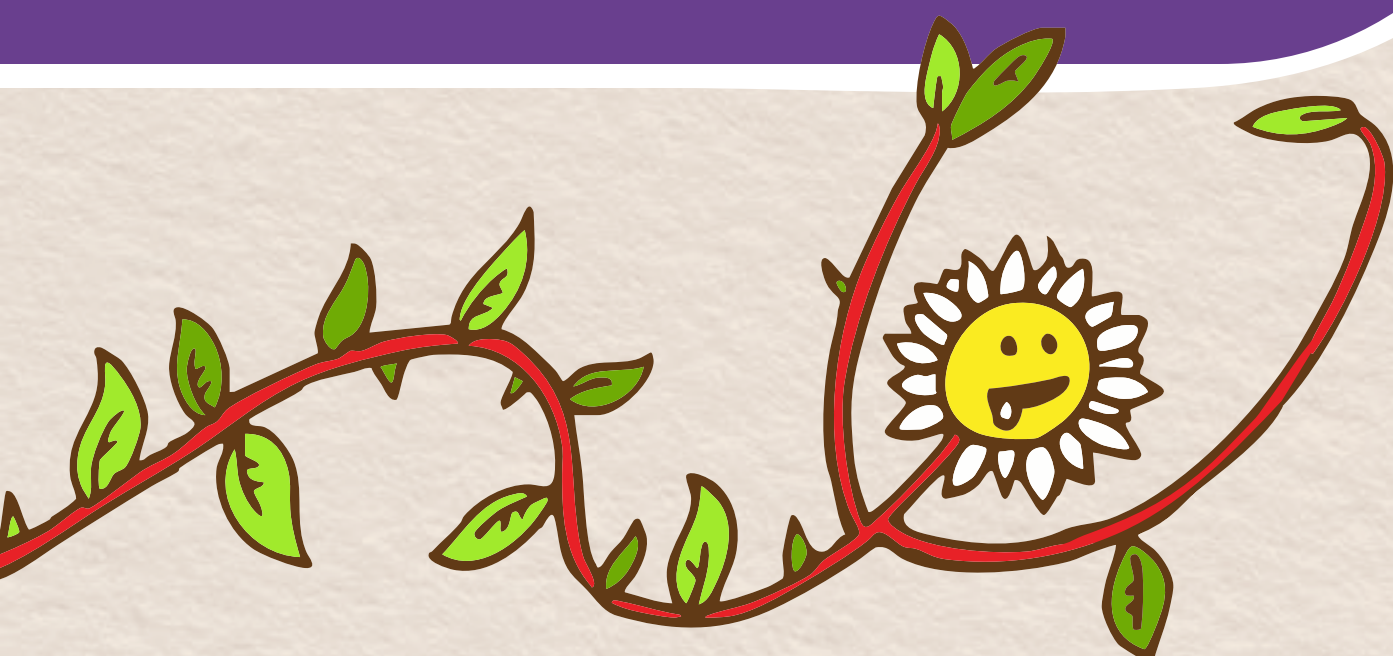
It was introduced to Britain in 1826 and was first reported in the wild in 1992.

How it spreads:

Spreads by rhizomes and can regrow from the smallest of fragments.



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Key identification features



Yellow flower spikes
with typically four white
bracts at their base.



Leaves are heart-shaped
and are dull blue-green or
highly variegated.



Rhizome rooting
at nodes.



Spent flower head.



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Take action

Help **stop** the **spread!**



Plant with a restricted root-run, such in a large container or trough.

Plant away from river courses where it might spread.

Remove the plant by digging or pulling, taking care to remove the roots.



Clean boots and garden tools as it can grow back from rhizome fragments that stick to equipment.

It's best not to compost it at home, instead use council garden waste facilities.

Explore our tips for alternative plant ideas.



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Handy tips

Legislation

Not currently listed in legislation as an invasive species.

Alternative plant ideas

Native

Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*)

Bloody crane's bill
(*Geranium sanguineum*)

Non-native

Barrenwort (*Epimedium*)

Carpet box (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)

Bugle

Barrenwort

Bloody
crane's bill

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Photos: NWWT Lisa Toth, Paul Lane, Philip Precey.

Illustrations: David Setter @doodleplanet and starfishonline.co.uk

Information collated from: GB NNSS, BSBI and RHS.