



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



PLANT PROFILE

Himalayan honeysuckle

POTENTIALLY
INVASIVE

FACTS

ID

TAKE
ACTION

TIPS

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PROFILES

Species description

Scientific name:

Leycesteria formosa

Other names:

Pheasant berry

Flowering nutmeg

Native to:

The Himalayas, western
China and Tibet

Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
Welsh Government

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Interesting facts

Potential impacts:

Himalayan honeysuckle can form dense thickets that can dominate a habitat, outcompeting other species. It is already being managed on our nature reserves.

Habitat:

Grows on walls, in woodland, at base of hedgerows and on waste ground.

A vigorous deciduous shrub.

An established garden escaper, it was introduced to Britain in 1824 and first recorded in the wild in 1894.

How it spreads:

Seed is dispersed by birds. Also spreads vegetatively by layering on the ground.



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Key identification features



Forms a dense shrub up to 2.5m high and wide.



Berries change from red to purple-black in autumn.

Mid-green leaves are opposite on the stem, oval and long-pointed in shape with wavy edges and grow between 5-18cm long.



Red-purple bracts.

Pendulous racemes of pale pink funnel shaped flowers (10-20mm).



Erect, sea-green stems (new growth) that are hollow and bamboo-like. Older stems become woody.

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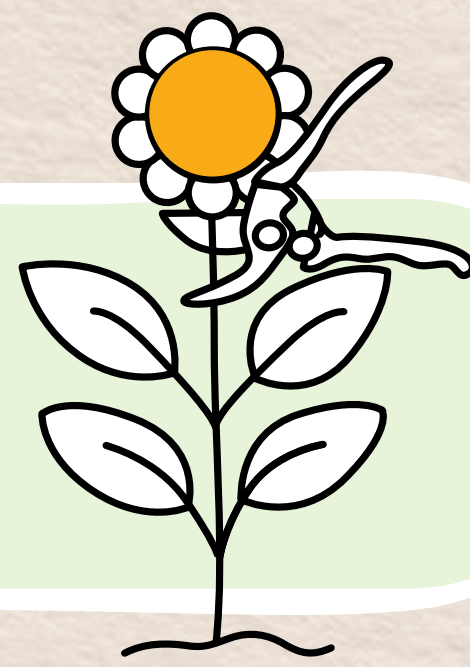
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Take action

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

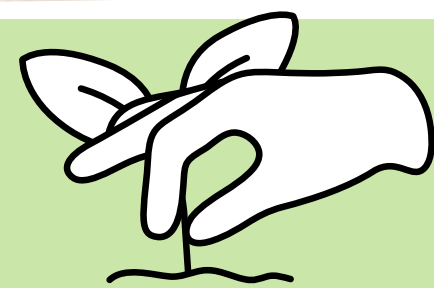


Deadhead after flowers have faded to stop berries developing.



Remove mature plants by digging, taking care to remove the roots.

Remove seedlings by pulling or digging.



It's best not to compost berries 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.

Similar named species:

Not to be confused with Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).



**Himalayan
balsam**

Alternative plant ideas

Non-native

Silk-tassel bush
(*Garrya elliptica*)

Glossy abelia
(*Abelia* × *grandiflora*)

Gordon's currant
(*Ribes* × *beatonii*)



**Silk-tassel
bush**

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Photos: NWWT Gemma Rose, NWWT Lisa Toth.

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

Information collated from: GB NNSS, BSBI and RHS.