





Reaching Integrated and Prompt Action in Response to Invasive Alien Species

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INTRODUCTION

The LIFE RIPARIAS project

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are species that are accidentally or intentionally introduced outside their natural range, and which may cause many issues due to their rapid spread. In Europe, IAS are a growing threat to ecosystems and biodiversity. The presence of IAS can also have socio-economic implications and adversely affect human health.

Nevertheless, responses to address the issue of biological invasion have often been insufficient and actions have had varying and sometimes limited results. The diversity of actors involved in IAS management alongside the fragmented nature of available IAS data sources impede the implementation of concerted and coherent management actions. Moreover, the number of IAS and associated costs are constantly increasing. It has therefore become essential to take efficient and coordinated decisions in order to determine which species and sites should be considered as a priority for management actions.

To address these challenges, Belgian authorities and their partners have joined forces through the LIFE RIPARIAS project, which aims to optimise the management of IAS in aquatic and riparian environments. To do so, a scientific evidence-based workflow setting up priorities for action has been developed. This efficiently guides decision-makers and managers through the IAS management decision-making process.

The project targets riparian and aquatic plant species that are listed as IAS of EU concern under the EU Regulation No 1143/2014. Other species included in an alert list are also targeted for early detection and rapid eradication.

The LIFE RIPARIAS project is developing and testing its innovative approach in the Dyle, Senne and Marcq river basins in the Scheldt river basin district. This pilot area covers 263,103,000 ha across the three regions of Belgium (the Walloon Region, the Flemish Region and the Brussels-Capital Region). This project is co-funded by the European Union as part of the LIFE Programme.

INTRODUCTION

Species of Union concern

IAS listed as "species of Union concern" are species representing a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystems. Since 2015, a European Regulation on invasive alien species (No 1143/2014) compels Member States to take measures to address the issue of IAS. This Regulation was established with the aim to curb the phenomenon on a continental scale.

The regulation aims to prevent the introduction and establishment of listed species, while minimising and mitigating the adverse effects associated with their spread. The Union list entered into force in July 2016 and was updated in 2022 with a total of 88 species. Listed species are subject to restrictions which include restrictions on introducing, keeping, breeding, growing, transporting, selling, exchange and use.

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species

Alert lists can be defined as lists of alien species that are not yet present in a certain area, or with a very limited distribution, and that pose a threat to biodiversity.

Active surveillance and monitoring are recommended for a prompt response in the event of introductions and spread in the wild.

An alert list of freshwater aquatic and riparian plant and crayfish species was established for the LIFE RIPARIAS territory. This list was developed using information such as species availability on the Belgian market, the risk of establishement, spread and impact on biodiversity (assessment made via the Harmonia+ risk scoring system).

The alert list includes 9 plant species native to various regions of the world.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE?

This identification guide has been designed to help field managers to recognise species targeted by the project, so that they can actively participate in the enhanced surveillance of IAS.

The guide is made of handy identification sheets. The sheets are divided into two groups: the first group concerns species of Union concern targeted by the LIFE RIPARIAS project*; the second one involves LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species.

For each group, species are listed in alphabetical order by scientific name (latin name).

In order to facilitate the recognition of species in the field and to prevent identification errors, look-alike species (indigenous or exotic) are frequently presented for comparison. This look-alike species list is not exhaustive and only provides information on species found in the wild in Belgium.

Identification sheets have been designed using information based on morphological characteristics observed in Belgian populations. In their natural range, some species may present characteristics that are not observed in Belgium, such as the presence of flowers.

For identification, it is recommended to collect sufficient plant material during the growing season. Ideally, several organs (stems, leaves, flowers, etc.) should be observed before making a diagnosis, by comparing the collected specimen with the criteria illustrated in the sheets. In case of doubt, it is recommended to refine the identification with the help of more detailed works. In order to avoid the dispersion of IAS in aquatic environments, it is important to:

- Check the equipment and clothing to ensure the absence of mud, plant fragments and seeds.
- Clean the equipment, shoes and clothing with clean water.
- Dry the equipment and clothing for at least 48 hours.



^{*}Elodea nuttallii is a species of EU concern that is not targeted by the project due to its low detectability and the low effectiveness of containment measures. The species is however included in this guide as it is widespread in Belgium.



Species of Union concern



Fanwort

Cabomba caroliniana

Species of Union concern





Invasive species native to America. Not very common in the wild in Belgium

Found in fresh, stagnant or slowmoving waters often rich in nutrients





Aquatic or semi-aquatic plant, entirely **submerged**, except for the flowers. Stems can be up to 10 m long

Fan-shaped leaves (dichotomous branching) with a long petiole



Forms dense mats





If you spot that species, record your observation on

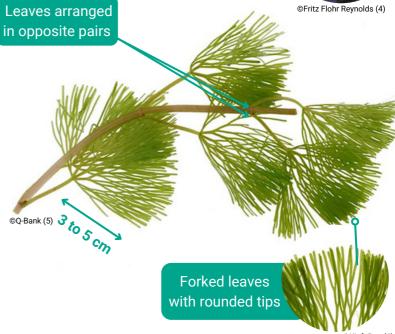




You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species

Small flowers (0,5 to 2 cm in diameter) of variable colours, but yellow in the center





Not to be confused with



Myriophyllum spp. - Exotic

- Leaves arranged in whorls
- Pinnate leaves

GB Non-native species (7)

Ranunculus spp. - Native

- Alternate leaf arrangement
- Short petioles





Ceratophyllum spp. - Native

- · Leaves arranged in whorls
- "Fork-shaped" leaves
- Leaves slightly thorny, rough to the touch





Nuttall's waterweed

Elodea nuttallii

Species of Union concern



Invasive species native to North America. Widespread in the wild in Belaium

Found in **fresh**, **stagnant** or slow-moving waters



Submerged aquatic plant. Can measure a few centimeters to several meters long

Forms dense mats just below the surface of the water





Elongated, soft leaves bent like claws towards the stem with a sharp tip and wavy margins



Leaves in whorls of 3 (2 to 4)

Leaves measuring 10 to 25 mm

If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Not to be confused with

Egeria densa - Exotic

- Soft elongated strapshaped leaves, up to 4 cm long
- · Leaves are in whorls of 4 to 5, very close to each other
- Large white flowers





Elodea canadensis - Exotic

- Short rigid leaves (< 2 cm) with rounded tips and finely serrated margins
- Leaves occur in whorls of 3 (sometimes 2 to 4), fairly spaced along the stem

Lagarosiphon major - Exotic

- · Alternate and spiral leaf arrangement along the stem
- Leaves are curved towards the stem and numerous at its
- Elongated leaves (up to 3 cm) with sharp tip





Hydrilla verticillata - Exotic

- Sharp leaves with marked serrated margins, up to 2 cm long
- Leaves occur in whorls of 5 (sometimes 4 to 8)





Giant hogweed Heracleum mantegazzianum Species of Union concern



Invasive species native to western Caucasus. Widespread in the wild in Belgium

Found along waterways, roads or in gardens





Terrestrial plant that can grow to heights of 3 to 4 m

Large toothed leaves which are deeply divided and dissected.

Glossy appearance due to the absence of hair



Forms dense monospecific stands



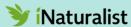


Toxic sap which can cause severe burns

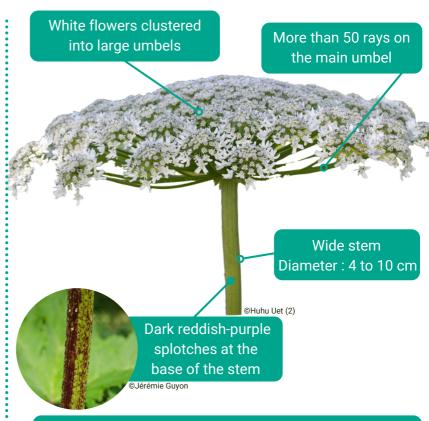


If you spot that species, record your observation on





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There are 2 other invasive alien species of giant hogweed that can be differentiated through genetic analysis

Not to be confused with

Heracleum sphondylium - Native



- Less than 30 rays on the main
- Round and hairy leaves giving a matt appearance
- Smaller size (<2m)
- Ridged hollow stem with diffuse red spots

Angelica archangelica - Native

- Round umbels
- Greenish-white flowers
- Finely toothed leaves
- Smaller size (<2m)







Floating pennywort

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

Species of Union concern





Invasive species native to America. Widespread in the wild in Belgium

Found in fresh, stagnant or slow-moving waters





Aquatic plant, floating or emerged, rooted in banks and shallow mud

Round and shiny leaves with toothed lobes and a deep cut at the base



Forms dense mats up to 40 cm above the water surface



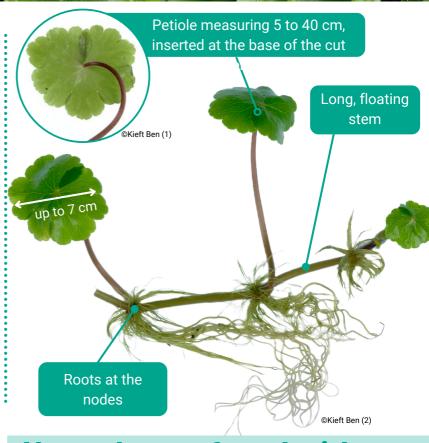


If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Not to be confused with



Glechoma hederacea - Native

- Terrestrial plant
- Small, heart-shaped leaves with fine fuzzy hair
- · Mint smell when leaves are crushed

Hydrocotyle vulgaris - Native

- Rarely found in water
- Small, umbrella-shaped leaves (< 5) cm) with no cut at the base





Ranunculus sceleratus - Native

- Leaves clustered at the base of the plant
- Well-defined triangular lobes





Himalayan balsam Impatiens glandulifera Species of Union concern



Invasive species native to the Himalayas. Widespread in the wild in Belaium

Found in alluvial forests and open areas along streams, sometimes far from rivers in the alluvial plain





Terrestrial plant that can grow to heights of 2,5 m

Toothed leaves measuring 5 to 20 cm long in whorls of 3 or opposite. Seed pods opening by explosion. Flowering from June to October



Forms dense stands



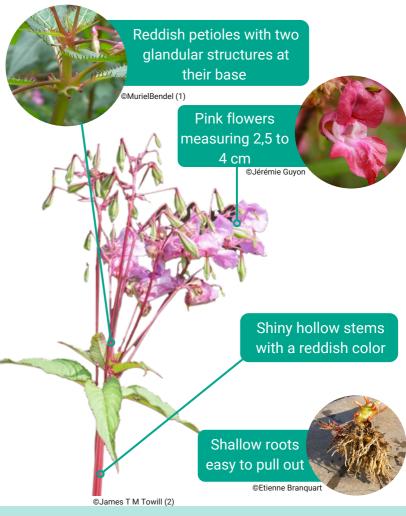


If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Not to be confused with



Impatiens balfourii - Exotic

- Alternate leaf arrangement with 40 to 50 teeth on each side
- Bicoloured flowers with a white upper part

Senecio ovatus - Native

- · Alternate leaf arrangement
- Deep roots difficult to pull out
- Yellow flowers







Himalayan knotweed

Koenigia polystachya

Species of Union concern





Invasive species native to the Himalayas. Widespread in the wild in Belgium

Found along waterways, roadsides and railroads, as well as in vacant lots





Terrestrial plant that grows to a height of 40 to 120 cm

Oblong to lanceolate leaves with marked tip, glabrous on the upper face and hairy on the lower face



Rhizomatous plant forming dense colonies



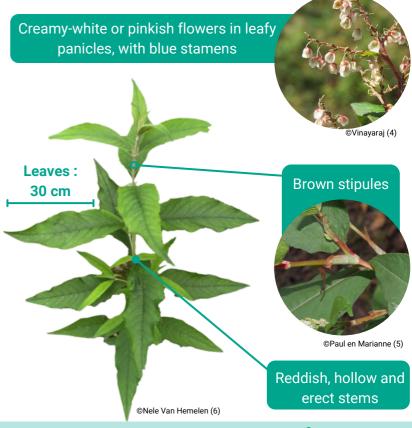


If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Not to be confused with



Bistorta officinalis - Native

- Simple light green leaves, narrowed at the base
- Pink flowers, in oblong-cylindrical and compact terminal spike

Rumex obtusifolius - Native

- Very large oval leaves with petioles and slight wavy edges
- Green flowers in very close whorls, in clusters





Fallopia japonica - Exotic

 Alternate leaf arrangement with ovate-triangular leaf blades, truncated at the base





Curly waterweed Lagarosiphon major

Species of Union concern



Invasive species native to South Africa. Not very common in the wild in Belgium

Found in fresh, stagnant or slow-moving waters

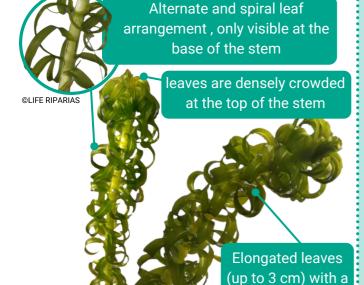


Submerged aquatic plant. Can measure a few centimeters to several meters long

Forms dense mats just below the surface of the water







If you spot that species, record your observation on





sharp tip

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Not to be confused with

Egeria densa - Exotic

- Soft elongated strapshaped leaves, up to 4 cm long
- · Leaves are in whorls of 4 to 5, very close to each other
- Large white flowers





Elodea canadensis - Exotic

- Short rigid leaves (< 2 cm) with rounded tips and finely serrated margins
- Leaves occur in whorls of 3 (sometimes 2 to 4), fairly spaced along the stem

Elodea nuttallii - Exotic

- Leaves occur in whorls of 3 (sometimes 2 to 4)
- Elongated leaves (up to 2.5) cm), soft and curved, with a sharp tip





Hydrilla verticillata - Exotic

- Sharp leaves with marked serrated margins, up to 2 cm
- Leaves occur in whorls of 5 (sometimes 4 to 8)

onicum Kft., Bugwood.org (3)





Water-primrose Ludwigia grandiflora Species of Union concern



Invasive species native to South America. Widespread in the wild in Northern Belgium

Found in fresh, stagnant or slow-moving waters and wet meadows



Aquatic and semi-aquatic plant, with submerged or emerged stems. Stems emerge up to 80 cm above the water surface

Alternate leaf arrangement. Elliptic leaves with matt appearance (floating leaves) or lanceolate leaves (leaves of emerged stems)



Forms dense mats on the surface of the water



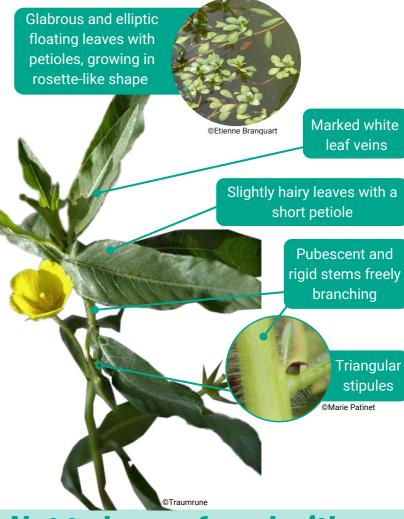


If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Not to be confused with



Ludwigia peploides - Exotic

- Smaller flowers
- Petals do not overlap
- Rounded stipules
- Glabrous erected leaves and stems

Veronica beccabunga - Native

- Blue flowers
- Opposite leaf arrangement. Toothed leaves with very short petioles







Floating primrose-willow

Ludwigia peploidés 💉 🎉

Species of Union concern





Invasive species native to South America. Widespread in the wild in Northern Belgium

Found in fresh, stagnant or slow-moving waters. Prefers sunny areas





Semi-aquatic or aquatic plant. Stems emerge up to 50 cm above the water surface

Alternate leaf arrangement. Rounded to lance-shaped leaves that range from 3 to 6 cm long



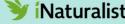
Forms dense mats on the surface of the water



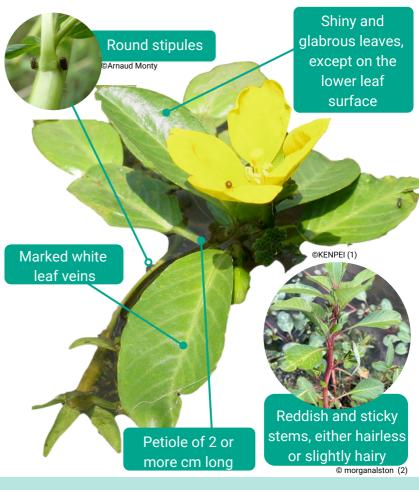


If you spot that species, record your observation on





You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species



Not to be confused with



Ludwigia grandiflora - Exotic

- Emerged leaves are lanceolate and hairy
- Overlapping petals
- Triangular stipules

Veronica beccabunga - Native

- Blue flowers
- Opposite leaf arrangement. Toothed leaves with very short petioles







American skunk cabbage

Lysichiton americanus





Invasive species native to North America. Rare in the wild in **Belaium**

Found in peat bogs, marshes, near rivers and waterbodies





Semi-aquatic and aquatic plant. From 30 to 100 cm high

Musty like odour when flowers and leaves are crushed. Flowering from April to May



Forms large and dense clumps of vegetation





If you spot that species, record your observation on



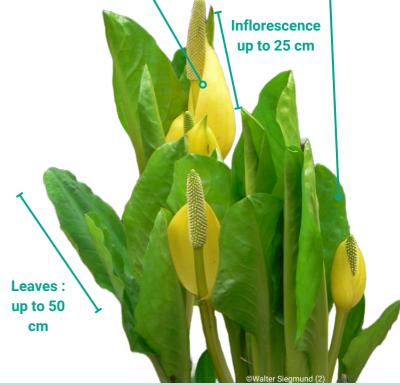


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Bright yellow bract at the base of the inflorescence (spathe)

Shiny, thick, leathery leaves with dark spots

©Jérémie Guyo



Not to be confused with

Lysichiton camtschatcensis - Exotic



- Matt leaves, absence of dark spots
- White spathe
- Odourless plant
- In Belgium, presence of hybrids between L. americanus and L. camtschatcensis.

Calla palustris - Native

- · Leaf blades are cordate at the base and acuminate at the top
- Bright red berries







Parrot's feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum

Species of Union concern



Invasive species native to Central and South America. Widespread in the wild in **Belgium**

Found in stagnant or slowmoving freshwater. Prefers shallow waters and muddy substrates



Aquatic and semi-aquatic plant, entirely submerged in spring and forming emergent stems in summer

Pectinate leaves occurring in whorls. Emergent leaves are blue-green in colour



Forms dense mats



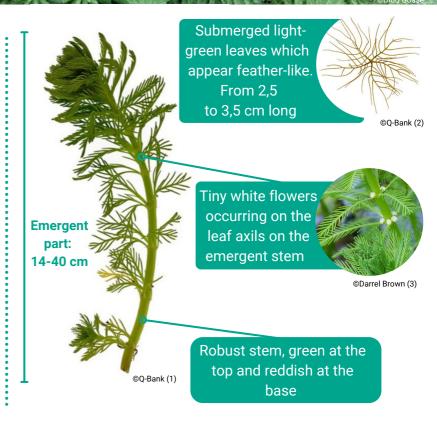


If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Not to be confused with



Myriophyllum rubricaule - Exotic

- Less robust plant
- · Stem is entirely red
- Pink flowers

Hippuris vulgaris - Native

- Entire leaves in whorls of 6 to 12
- Stem emerging up to 30 cm above the surface
- Looks like miniature Christmas trees





Myriophyllum spp. - Native

- Entirely submerged plant
- · Leaves divided into 3 to 14 leaflet
- Internodes of the same length as leaves or of half of the leaf length





Broadleaf watermilfoil

Myriophyllum heterophyllum

Species of Union concern





Invasive species native to Southeastern United States. Rare in the wild in Belgium

Found in fresh, stagnant or slowmoving water often rich in nutrients



Aquatic and semi-aquatic plant, entirely submerged in spring and forming emergent stems in summer and fall.

Leaves occurring in whorls. Submerged leaves are pinnate. Internodes about ¼ of the leaf length



Covers the whole water body





If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Pink flowers occurring on the leaf axils on the emergent stem. Flowering from

June to July



©Q-Bank (10)

Emergent leaves are entire, toothed and of reduced size (0.5 to 3 cm)



Stefan.lefnaer (5)

Not to be confused with



Emergent

part:

3-15 cm

Myriophyllum spp. - Native

- Entirely submerged plant
- · Leaves divided into 3 to 14 leaflet pairs
- Internodes of the same length as leaves or of half of the leaf length

Hippuris vulgaris - Native

- Entire leaves in whorls of 6 to 12
- Stem emerging up to 30 cm above the surface
- Looks like miniature Christmas trees





Ceratophyllum spp. - Native

- Whorled leaves
- "Fork-shaped" leaves







LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species



Cape-pondweed

Aponogeton distachyos

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species



Invasive species native to South Africa. Uncommon in the wild in Belgium

Found in fresh, stagnant or slowmoving water often rich in nutrients



Aquatic plant with semipersistent floating leaves, developing from a tuber. From 50 to 120 cm

Oval or narrow-lanceolate leaves with a colouration going from pale to dark green, with a pale distinctive central vein measuring from 5 to 30 cm



Can form dense mats on the surface of the water





If you spot that species, record your observation on





You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species

The petioles and the peduncle are developed from a tuber buried in the mud

Veins arranged in marked perpendicular networks







Forked inflorescence bearing white and vanilla-scented flowers

Tough, elongated and floating leaves, often with purple spots and with a very long petiole

Not to be confused with



Potamogeton spp. - Native

- Green to brownish flower spikes
- Oval, round or cordate leaf base. From 2 to 10 cm long
- Parallel veins

©Vladimir Bryukhov (6)

Persicaria amphibia - Native

- Pink flower spikes
- Oval or elongate leaves measuring from 5 to 15 cm







New Zealand pigmyweed

Crassula helmsii

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species





Invasive species native to Autralia and New Zealand. Widespread in the wild in Belgium

Found on the bottom (up to 3 m deep) and on the banks of ponds





Aquatic and semi-aquatic plant, submerged or partly emerged. From 10 to 20 cm high

Linear fleshy leaves with acute tips, arranged in opposite pairs. Up to 2 cm long



Creeping plant forming dense mats



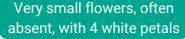


If you spot that species, record your observation on





You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species





Emerged plants: fleshy leaves growing in opposite pairs, joined around the stem forming a collar

Submerged plants: long stem carrying thin leaves



Round and rigid stem

Not to be confused with



Callitriche spp. - Native

- · Petiolate leaves, flexible and not fleshy
- Obtuse and indented leaf tips
- Tiny golden flowers

Lythrum portula - Native

- Round and opposite leaves which are not fleshy
- Tiny flowers placed at the base of the leaves





Montia fontana - Native

- Fleshy, opposite and oval leaves not joining at the base
- Small white flowers with 5 petals





Greater pondweed

Egeria densa

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species





Invasive species native to South America. Widespread in the wild in Belgium

Found in **fresh**, **stagnant** or slow-moving waters



Submerged aquatic plant. Stems up to 2 m long (or more), producing roots at regular intervals

Forms dense mats just below the surface of the water







Strap-shaped leaves with fine saw teeth on the margins, that fall down on each other once out of water

> If you spot that species, record your observation on





You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species

Not to be confused with

Elodea nuttallii - Exotic

- Leaves occur in whorls of 3 (sometimes 2 to 4)
- Elongated leaves (up to 2.5 cm), soft and curved, with a sharp tip





Elodea canadensis - Exotic

- Short rigid leaves (< 2 cm) with rounded tips and finely serrated margins
- Leaves occur in whorls of 3 (sometimes 2 to 4), fairly spaced along the stem

Lagarosiphon major - Exotic

- Alternate and spiral leaf arrangement along the stem
- Leaves are curved towards the stem and numerous at its
- Elongated leaves (up to 3 cm) with sharp tip





Hydrilla verticillata - Exotic

- Sharp leaves with marked serrated margins, up to 2 cm long
- Leaves occur in whorls of 5 (sometimes 4 to 8)





Monkeyflower Erythranthe guttata LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species



Invasive species native to North America. Widespread in the wild in Belgium

Found in wetlands and along waterways





Emerged plant that can grow to heights of 80 cm

Ovate or suborbicular coarsely toothed leaves, strongly ribbed



Can form dense stands



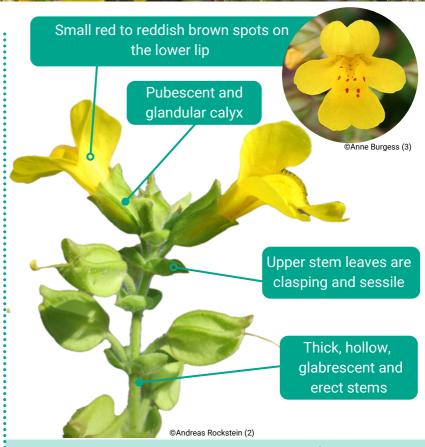


If you spot that species, record your observation on





You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species



Not to be confused with



Ludwigia spp. - Exotic

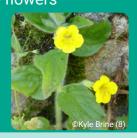
- Lanceolate emerged leaves with sharp tips
- Flower with 5 similar petals
- · No flower on floating stems but flowering erect stems

Mimulus spp. - Exotic Mimulus luteus

Hairless flowers with one spot



Mimulus moschatus Hairy plant. No spot on the flowers







Chinese lizard tail

Houttuynia cordata

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species



Invasive species native to Asia. Rare in the wild in Belgium

Found in wetlands and cool forest environments, in partially shaded sites



Terrestrial or submerged semiaquatic perennial plant.

Grows to heights of 30 to 40 cm

There is a cultivar with tricolour leaves which has, however, not been observed in the wild yet



Fast growing rhizomatous species forming dense stands



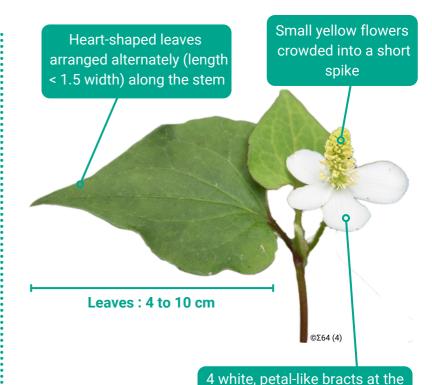


If you spot that species, record your observation on





You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species



Strong, peppery, lemon-like scent

Not to be confused with

Saururus cernuus - Exotic



 Flowers aggregated in long spikes curved downwards

base. Can have double flowers

- Light green lower leaf surface
- Larger plant size

Seedlings of Fallopia spp. - Exotic

- Alternate leaf arrangement with leaves not or slightly cordate at the base and straight edges
- · Reddish stems with marked nodes







Giant butterbur

Petasites japonicus var. giganteus

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species





Invasive species native to Asia. Rare in the wild in Belgium

Found along streams, riverbanks, wet meadows and shady forests



Dioecious terrestrial herbaceous plant. (Only male individuals in

Europe).

Can reach more than 1 m high and 3 m wide

Very large kidneyshaped leaves up to 150 cm in diameter, irregularly toothed



Rhizomatous plant forming dense stands







If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Flower clumps emerge before the leaves in February-April and quickly fade away afterwards



Inflorescences in spike made up of small fragrant creamcoloured flowers

> Pale-green bracts

©Dominicus Johannes Bergsma (5)

Rosettes appear in April-May and remain until the end of summer





Not to be confused with



Petasites hybridus - Native

- Large toothed heart-shaped leaves
- Pink odourless flowers

Tussilago farfara - Native

- · Rounded, smaller and tougher leaves
- Leaves with black edges and white-felted underneath







Pickerelweed Pontederia cordata LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species



Invasive species native to America. Rare in the wild in **Belaium**

Found in **marshes** and shallow stagnant waters





Aquatic perennial plant. From 60 to 100 cm high

Lanceolate to heartshaped leaves that can grow up to 12 cm wide and 25 cm long



Rhizomatous plant forming dense mats along banks



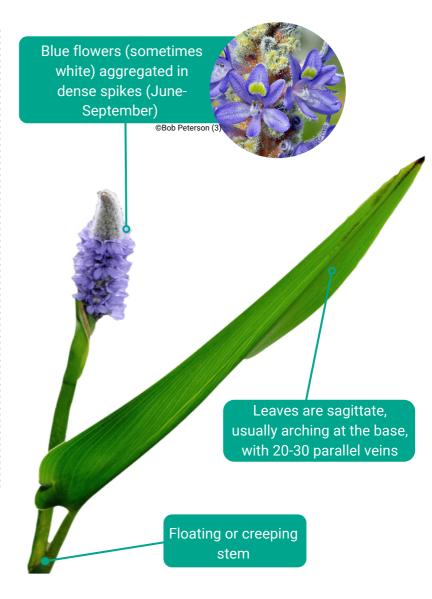


If you spot that species, record your observation on





You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species



Not to be confused with



Sagittaria spp. - Native

- White flowers gathered in a bunch
- Arrow-shaped leaves which are acutely indented





Lizard's tail Saururus cernuus LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species



Invasive species native to North America. Rare in the wild in Belgium

Found in marshes, streams and stagnant waters



Aquatic and semi-aquatic perennial plant, submerged or emerged. Grows to heights of 50 to 60 cm



The plant can live on the bottom of water bodies in a vegetative form. Fragile appearance

Species with very long rhizomes (up to 5 m) forming dense mats





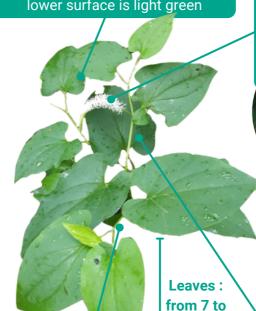
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Elongated, heart-shaped leaves (length > 1,5 x width). The upper leaf surface is dark green while the lower surface is light green



Young stem sometimes pubescent which becomes glabrous

White flowers aggregated in spikes, curved downwards, 10-30 cm long



©Corey Lange (1) ©Ashlev M Bradford (2)



Green to reddish stems that are zigzag branched

Not to be confused with

15 cm

long



©ihennes (3)

Houttuynia cordata - Exotic

- Orange scent
- 4 white, petal-like bracts at the base

Lysimachia clethroides - Exotic

- Lanceolate, alternately arranged leaves measuring 6 to 11 cm long
- Arching flower spikes. Starshaped flowers with 5 petals measuring 1 cm wide





Manchurian wildrice

Zizania latifolia

LIFE RIPARIAS alert list species





Invasive species native to China. **Uncommon** in the wild in **Belaium**

Found in shallow stagnant waters (edge of water bodies, swamps...)



Aquatic or semi-aquatic emerged perennial plant. Can grow to heights of 4 m

Long, dull grey-green leaves with a stout midrib on the leaf underside



Rhizomatous plant forming dense long-lived stands. Does not produce flowers in Belgium





If you spot that species, record your observation on





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Leaves up to 1 m long and 2 cm wide

Smooth, shiny, hollow stem with flattened section

Black spots and large liqule at the base of the leaves

Not to be confused with



Iris pseudacorus - Native

- Stem slightly compressed
- Yellow flowers (between April and July)
- Dark-green basal leaves (10 to 20 mm) with a raised midrib

Typha spp. - Native Absence of midrib on the leaves.

Flowering between June and August

Typha angustifolia _eaves are 1cm wide













GLOSSARY

A

Acuminate: leaf that tapers into a long point

Alien species: species accidentally or intentionally introduced outside their natural range Alternate leaf arrangement: leaf inserted at different levels on the stem, as opposed to opposite leaves

B

Bract: leafy body in the vicinity of the flowers, unlike normal leaves and floral parts (sepals, petals)

C

Clasping: said of a leaf without a petiole whose blade entirely or partially embraces the

Cordate: botanical term which means "heart-shaped".

Corolla: inner part of the perianth, often brightly colored, formed by petals

D

Denticulated: which has small fine teeth on the margin

Dichotomous: which divides by bifurcation into branches of similar importance

G

Glabrous: hairless

Glabrescent: which loses its hair over time

Н

Heart-shaped: leaf or other organ whose base is indented in the shape of a heart

Internode: interval between two nodes of the stem

In whorls: arranged in whorls

Lanceolate: in the shape of a spearhead; narrowed from the middle to the two ends **Ligule**: membranous appendage appearing at the junction of the leaf blade and the leaf sheath, in the Poaceae

N

Native species: species naturally present in a specific geographical area (Belgium in this case)

GLOSSARY

0

Opposite: said of 2 leaves inserted at the same level on the stem, one facing the other

P

Panicle: inflorescence in the form of an assembled cluster

Pectinate: is said of a simple, pinnate leaf, cut symmetrically on each side of the central

vein, whose indentations reach half the width of the leaf blade **Peduncle**: axis of an inflorescence supporting the pedicels

Petiole: thinned part of the leaf connecting the blade to the stem

Pinnate: said of a leaf whose secondary veins or leaflets are arranged in two rows on

either side of the main vein or rachis, like the barbs of a feather **Pubescent:** which has a fluffy appearance, covered with hair

R

Rhizomatous: provided with a rhizome, that is to say an underground stem carrying adventitious roots and aerial stems

Rosette: group of spreading leaves generally at ground level

S

Sepal: part of the calyx of a flower, usually green

Sessility: attached directly to the stem

Spathe: large bract enveloping an inflorescence

Spatulated: spatula-shaped, wide at the top, narrow and elongated at the base

Stipule: appendage most often foliaceous or membranous, at the junction of the petiole

and the stem

Suborbicular: which is almost round, which describes a quasi-circumference

U

Umbel: inflorescence in which the flower pedicels are all inserted at the same point of the stem, and the flowers are all arranged on the same surface (spherical or flat)

W

Whorls: leaves arranged in a circle, at the same level, around an axis



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