

Criminal plants in the UK



It is considered an offence letting these plants outside your garden.



Spear Thistle



The Spear thistle's seeds will germinate in autumn or any other season as long as moisture is present.

The spear thistle is highly adaptable and it has the potential to compete with most every plant it encounters. It is not only spread in the UK, but worldwide and by the looks of it world domination is its final goal.

The Common ragwort is poisonous to most mammals and its growth should be strictly controlled.

Do not get deceived by this beauty. The common ragwort is toxic for livestock and it will not stop until it murders all your cows. It's also the most commonly reported weed.

Common Ragwort



Broad-leaved dock



There is literally no climatic limitation across the UK to stop this green invader.

Broad-leaved dock is able to grow on all soils except the most acid ones. Some might argue that this weed is not harmful, but the fact is it's a host to many pests you don't really want in your garden.

Flexibility - this plant is capable of behaving as an annual, biennial or perennial in order to survive.

Hybrids between curled dock and broad-leaved dock are reported to be common. As such they become more vigorous in terms of growth than the parents and you might as well say it's another survival mechanism.

Curled dock



Japanese Knotweed



A special license is required to obtain the chemicals that will only cut the eradication period of this plant to a couple of years.

The Japanese knotweed can grow through concrete and it takes years to fully eradicate it, for its creeping roots may remain dormant in the soil for up to 20 years. Many banks will deny mortgage to properties infested with this green demon.

Giant Hogweed



Touching this highly invasive plant may result in third-degree burns.

Furanocoumarins - the chemical contained in the sap of this plant - when in contact with human skin makes it super sensitive to sunlight causing burning sensation and in some cases permanent scars.

Himalayan Balsam



The ripe seed pods of this invader shoot seeds up to 7m (22 ft) away.

Every single Himalayan balsam plant produces around 800 seeds that will remain viable for at least two years, giving them the opportunity to be spread left and right by wildlife, wind and rivers. A true invasion.

Rhododendron ponticum



Plants spread by lateral horizontal growth of branches and sometimes an established plant may cover metres of ground.

There's a report of a couple being trapped in the thick branches of this monster for about 5 hours. The rhododendron grows high, blocking sunlight for other competing plants and therefore eliminating them. The control and eradication of this alien invader costs the UK millions every year.

New Zealand Pigmyweed



In 2014 the UK bans this plant from sale for it is nearly impossible to control its spread.

New Zealand pigmyweed also known as Australian swamp stonecrop has truly earned its first of a kind ban in the UK. It is an aquatic plant that will kill anything in its way, forming a dense mat. Just a little piece of its stem can grow and multiply vigorously. The only way to prevent it from further growing in a pond is by filling the said infected pond.