



# **Invasive Plant Species and their Control on Plots**



**KAUPUNKIYMPÄRISTÖ**

**OULU**

## Invasive Plant Species

Invasive species are plants and animals that have spread outside their natural range due to human activity. If invasive species threatens natural biodiversity and original flora, they can be defined as harmful invasive species. Some harmful invasive species are listed in the national or EU's list of invasive alien species. Invasive species categorized as harmful must not be released into nature, imported, grown, transported, supplied, placed on the market, sold or delivered.

Invasive species must not be intentionally grown on the property. If a harmful invasive plant has been planted or has spread on the yard, the property owner or occupier must remove the growth.

Many invasive plant growths have spread into nature and new areas with yard waste and soil. You must exercise extra care when destroying harmful invasive species to stop them reproducing more.

### Treatment and Destruction of Harmful Invasive Species

Place the seedlings and the spreading parts (rootstock) primarily into the property's mixed waste. Other plant parts should be delivered to Rusko waste drop-off point and disposed of as yard waste. There is a separate waste point for invasive species in the yard waste area. **Never throw yard waste into nature.** For example, blossoms that include seeds can also be decomposed in a bag before composting.

In the Oulu region, the focus of control is on Himalayan balsam (jättipalsami), Japanese rose (kurttuhehtiruusu), large-leaved lupine (komealupiini) and hogweeds (jättiputket). Information about these plants is listed on the following pages. As a resource, we have used the Natural Resources Institute Finland's national list of invasive alien species that lists comprehensive information about invasive species, identifying them and controlling them.

In order to track the spread of invasive species in the Oulu region, please report the invasive species observations on the invasive species webpage. It is especially important to report invasive species that have spread to nature.

Invasive species webpage: <https://vieraslajit.fi/>

Report invasive species observations: <https://vieraslajit.fi/ilmoita>

Information on invasive plant waste treatment: <https://vieraslajit.fi/info/i-1217> (in Finnish)



## Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*



picture: Manfred Antranas Zimmer, Pixabay Free license



picture: Pixabay Free license



picture: City of Oulu

Himalayan balsam has been categorized as a harmful invasive species in the EU.

### Description

The Himalayan balsam grows to about 1–2 meters tall. Its elliptical leaves are serrated and its bloom is an up-right cluster. The up to 4 cm large flowers are usually pink. The color might vary from white to dark red.

One-year old balsam reproduces only through seeds. One plant can produce up to 4 000 seeds that are hurtled into the environment when mature capsules burst. The balsam's seeds usually remain viable in the soil's seed bank for a couple of years, four at most.

The Himalayan balsam thrives especially in lush and damp sites where it occupies growth area away from the original plants. It does not fare as well on dry sites where it does not grow as large. The small balsams also bloom and seed.

### Control

Uprooting and mowing are efficient means of control as long as they are done before it blooms, and its seeds mature. The Himalayan balsam can easily be ripped out of the earth along with its roots. Mowing is efficient when dealing with extensive occurrences. Control should be executed 2–3 times during the growing season and must be repeated in the coming years.

If the balsam's seeds have already formed, attempting to control its spread might even advance the spread. In order to prevent the spread, the blooms may be carefully cut into a waste bag and thrown into mixed waste.

Yard waste that includes balsam seeds must not be composted without pre-treatment. Please also make sure that the seeds do not spread through soil.

## Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*)

(Red Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa* f. *rugosa*) and white Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa* f. *alba* variants))



picture: Pixabay Free license



picture: City of Oulu



picture: Pixabay Free license

Both red and white Japanese rose variants have been categorized as harmful invasive species. Plants belonging to the decorative *Rosa Rugosa* group are not harmful invasive species.

### Description

The Japanese rose is a 0,5–1,5 meter-tall bush and its wooded stem is thick with straight thorns. Its thick, serrated leaflets are grooved and wrinkly. The sizable flowers are colored magenta, pink or white. The seeds develop in the late-summer inside the maturing turnip-shaped rose hips.

The Japanese rose is a common decorative flower on yards and roadsides. It spreads into wide and dense growths due to its tops and root suckers. It reproduces through seeds primarily carried by birds during fall migration.

### Control

Control is easiest when the bush is small. Smallest plants often can be uprooted by hand. Larger bushes should be cut from the base, for example with shears or a brush saw while wearing sturdy gloves. After being cut, the entire rootstock is dug from the ground. Destroying extensive growths should be done with a machine. It can also be destroyed by starving and covering it.

(Read more <https://vieraslajit.fi/lajit/MX.38815>)

Disposal of Japanese rose often does not succeed at once. New sprouts rising from the pieces of the rootstock that remain under the ground must be cut regularly.

The rose hips should be collected in fall at the latest to stop the birds from spreading their seeds. The seeds remaining in the rose hips can germinate in the next summer.

To stop the Japanese rose from spreading with soil, the pieces of the rootstock should be sifted from the soil. The rose hips and seeds should not be composted.



## Large-leaved lupine *Lupinus polyphyllus*



picture: Pixabay Free license



picture: City of Oulu

Large-leaved lupine has been categorized nationally as a harmful invasive species.

### Description

The perennial large-leaved lupine grows to be 1–1,5 meters tall. The long-stalked, pointed leaflets are palmately divided. Its bloom cluster varies in color (white-pink-blue), and plenty of seeds develop in the brown, hairy pods once it has bloomed.

Large-leaved lupines efficiently reproduce through seeds that remain viable for a long time. The seeds travel with mowers, soil and yard waste. The species has spread from gardens to barren land, roadsides, railway embankments, meadows and even forests. The large-leaved lupine might reproduce vegetatively.

It also thrives in infertile soil by eutrophication it by fixing nitrogen from the atmosphere. It is toxic and harmful to many insects.

### Control

Controlling the spread of large-leaved lupine requires perseverance. Single plants can be dug from the ground along with their rootstocks. Extensive growths should be mowed. Annual mowing (2–4 times per summer) from the base of the sprout weakens the plant's viability over time.

It is important to cut/mow its blooms before the seeds form. Once the seed pods have formed and matured (the seeds are brown and hard), the plant should not be mowed to prevent the spread of seeds.

Its mowing waste should be collected since they can eutrophicate the habitat. Yard waste that includes seeds should be pre-treated before composting (for example, by decomposing in a bag) or be placed in mixed waste. Make sure that the seeds do not spread with the soil.

## Hogweed *Heracleum persicum* -family

(In Finland, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* and Persian hogweed *H. persicum*)

**Please note: The sap of hogweeds can cause serious skin and tissue damage when reacting with sunlight. The plant's odor can cause allergic reactions. Protect yourself when destroying the plant (gloves, covering clothes and safety goggles). Work on a cloudy day.**



picture: Jean-Pol Grandmont, CC BY 3.0



picture: Teemu Mäki, CC BY-SA 3.0

Hogweeds have been categorized as harmful invasive species in the EU.

### Description

Hogweeds are large (approx. 1,5–5 m). The stalk is thick, red-green, blotchy, hairy and hollow. There can be multiple stalks. The large leaves are flaky, serrated and pointed. The ramified, large and domed bloom is white or pinkish. It blooms in June-August. More details for identification:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AceiY53TYmw>

Depending on the species, perennial hogweeds reproduce only through seeds that are spread with yard waste and soil. The seeds remain viable for multiple years. Toxic hogweeds have spread to yards, roadsides, barren land and forests, and they form extensive and thick growths.

### Control

It is easiest to destroy hogweeds when they are still small. Single plants can be uprooted by cutting the top root under the earth, you may dig the largest plant from the ground with its rootstock. You may prevent the plant's spread by cutting the bloom before the seeds mature and making sure that the bloom and seeds do not stay on the ground. Repetitive mowing reduces the growth and seed production of hogweeds. You may also cover the growths (with the plant).

The hogweed plant waste is capable of spreading and must not be composted, disposed as yard waste or left in nature. The leaves and stalks can be composted. The rootstocks and blooms can be discarded in waste bags in mixed waste (to be burned).

Further information about destroying hogweed growths with herbicide: <https://vieraslajit.fi/lajit/MX.41695> (in Finnish)

## Surplus Soil that includes Invasive Species Waste

Loads of less than 5 cubic meters of pure soil can be delivered to the surplus soil receiving station in Kaakkuri sports area's spoil deposit at the end of Pirttilammentie. The deposit is open on Mon-Thu at 7.00-15.00 and on Fridays at 7.00-13.00. [Map to the Kaakkuri spoil deposit.](#)

The city of Oulu does not charge a fee for small loads of surplus soil delivered with a passenger car or trailer. The loads must be delivered to the receiving station during opening times. Delivering large loads of surplus soil, over 5 cubic meters, requires a permit and subject to a charge. The price can be seen in the Urban and Environmental Services's price list. The large loads can be delivered to the Kaakkuri spoil deposit.

Unspoilt soil that includes invasive species waste can also be delivered to the deposit, there is a designated area for such waste. The deliverer must contact Mika Jutila from the Streets and Traffic Unit. He will instruct the deliverer separately.

Kaakkuri spoil deposit contact information:

Mika Jutila  
Licensing Engineer  
tel. 044 703 2214  
e-mail [mika.jutila@ouka.fi](mailto:mika.jutila@ouka.fi)

Further information about delivering surplus soil in Oulu <https://www.ouka.fi/jatehuolto/lumen-ja-ylijaamamaiden-vastaanotto> (in Finnish)