

## Mini guide to

# invasive alien species



### **Emerald Ash Borer**

*Agilus planipennis*

Small beetle whose larvae feeds under the bark of Ash trees causing substantial damage and dieback, and even death of infected trees.



### **Water Primrose**

*Ludwigia grandiflora*

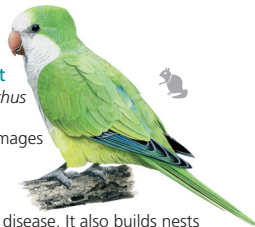
Aquatic plant that spreads rapidly, changing species communities but also interfering with navigation, abstraction and drainage.



### **Monk Parakeet**

*Myiopsitta monachus*

Loud and noisy parakeet that damages crops, changes communities of urban birds and transmits wildlife disease. It also builds nests which can cause damage to infrastructure.

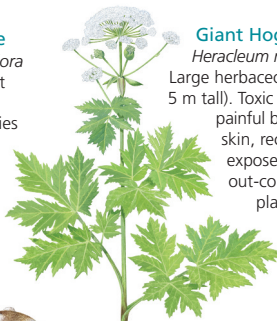


### **Giant Hogweed**



*Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Large herbaceous plant (up to 5 m tall). Toxic sap causes painful blisters on human skin, recurring when exposed to sunlight. It out-competes native plants through shading, with dramatic impacts on biodiversity.



### **Finlayson Squirrel**

*Callosciurus finlaysonii*

Squirrel that causes damage to both deciduous and coniferous trees, stripping bark which can cause trees to die.



### **Killer Shrimp**

*Dikerogammarus villosus*

Highly aggressive freshwater amphipod shrimp that preys on other invertebrates, causing major changes to food webs.



### **Striped Eel-catfish**

*Plotosus lineatus*  
Marine fish with venomous dorsal and pectoral fins with a painful sting (fatal in rare cases). It predates on and out-competes native species for food and habitats.



#### **Cluster groups**



Forest ecosystems



Pet species



Aquatic ornamentals



Soil transport

Illustrations  
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# INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES



WORKING TOGETHER ON UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION

This mini guide shows seven invasive alien species which are currently threatening biodiversity in Europe.

- Alien species are organisms which have arrived in a new region as a consequence of human activity.
- There are more than 14,000 alien species in Europe. About 15% of these negatively affect biodiversity, the economy or society. They are termed invasive alien species.
- Alien species arrive in new regions in many different ways. Some, such as garden plants, are intentionally introduced, while others arrive unintentionally. For example jellyfish may spread by hitchhiking in the ballast water of ships.
- Invasive alien species cost the European economy more than 12 billion euro per year.
- Invasive alien species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity alongside climate change and habitat destruction and fragmentation.

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understanding and communication"



Field Studies Council produces a range of guides to help with identification.  
[www.field-studies-council.org/shop](http://www.field-studies-council.org/shop)