



BIODIVERSITY ISSUES – PLANNING AGAINST SPREADING OF INVASIVE SPECIES AND PROTECTION OF PROTECTED SPECIES

Discussions were held between the Facilities & Estates Department and the Horticulture Department, whereby the question was raised regarding planning against the spreading of invasive species.

The following guidelines came from the Horticulture Department:

“We try not to ‘import’ much in the way of soil, but when we do we ensure it is ‘sterile’ i.e. no weed seeds within the soil.”

“Any plants that are brought in – potted or otherwise – are always inspected for invasive species – Nothing invasive is grown on site.”

*“We also avoid encouragement of any potential ‘Host’ plants – This means they can be like a human ‘disease carrier’ – Plants like Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, *Reynoutria japonica*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and Rhododendron (*ponticum*).”*

“Eradicate using the least dangerous method. Any sightings of these weeds notify DEFRA in cases where any specific subjects appear on their lists of notifiable invasive species.”

“Water born plants such as ‘Parrot Feather’, ‘New Zealand Pygmy Weed’ can cause serious issues, and should be discouraged and definitely not grown. Plants like these cause similar problems to ‘Host’ land plants, but even more so. This is because water born plants travel a lot quicker than land born plants – around 5 to 10 times quicker – so they need to be spotted and eradicated a lot earlier.”