



B&Q Invasive Non-Native Plant Species Buying Standard

August 2015

Policy Lead: Julia Griffin



Introduction

Introducing and using plants from abroad has enhanced and added to the enjoyment and use of our gardens since Roman times. However, a few of those non-native plants have proven to be extremely harmful and invasive as they take over natural habitats, out-compete native plants, block up ponds and rivers and in some cases there is a risk of accidental introduction of non-native species carried as passengers in imported horticultural produce. Invasive non-native species cost the GB economy in excess of £1.7 billion a year¹ and are considered one of the greatest threats to native species. It is also likely that the problems caused by invasive non-native plant species will increase as the effects of climate change increase.

Background

At B&Q we take our environmental and ethical responsibilities very seriously and as the UK's biggest Home Improvement Retailer we have an added responsibility to ensure the products we stock and sell do not damage our native flora and fauna. We work to ensure customers are aware of what they are buying - plants are clearly and correctly named and labelled and give an indication of growth rates.

It is important to increase public awareness around non-native plants that can damage our environment by taking over natural habitats, out-competing native plants and blocking up ponds and rivers. At B&Q we will help customers to reduce the risk of species spreading and causing harm to wild habitats and species, by not selling or stocking those invasive species which have a negative impact on our environment.

While varying legislation regarding invasive plant species exists across the individual jurisdictions B&Q operate in, care has been applied to ensure that all legislative requirements have been met. A list of species, suitable for commercial growth, which we do not and will not stock in any of our UK or Republic of Ireland stores, is included below.

There is not one single list of all invasive non-native plant species covered by legislation in the UK and Ireland. Links to individual species lists are provided at the end of this document and see the RHS for further information: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/Media/PDFs/Advice/CE-leaflet-schedule-9> and Plant Wise for aquatic plant issues: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise/index.cfm>.

Aim(s)

Our aim is to ensure that the products that we stock and sell do not have a negative impact on our native flora and fauna. We work with external stakeholders to ensure that the below list of invasive non-native species is maintained and updated on an annual basis.

¹ Defra: the Economic Cost of Invasive Non-native Species to the British Economy 2010
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/downloadDocument.cfm?id=487> or link to
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=14>

We will also work to ensure customers are aware of what they are buying through clear labelling and advise customers on the responsible management and safe disposal of invasive non-native plants so as to avoid the inadvertent spread of these species. In addition we aim to provide advice to our customers on safe alternatives to some of the more popular Invasive Non-Native species.

Rules

Across the UK, the introduction – whether deliberate or accidental – of non-native species is regulated and some actions are a criminal offence. Different parts of the UK are regulated in different ways.

In **England & Wales** Section 14A (2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended 2010) makes it unlawful to plant (or cause to grow) in the wild certain plants (those listed in Schedule 9*).

* **Please note:** The Joint Nature Conservation Committee are undertaking a review of schedule 9 (July 2015), submitting their recommendations to Defra by end of October 2015. Government will then consider these recommendations and use them as a basis to launch its own consultation on schedule 9 review. Government will then consider responses to this consultation and make final decisions on the schedule 9 list in the Spring of 2016.

In **England** during April 2014 a ban on the sale of five invasive non-native aquatic plants came into force, following their listing on an Order made under Section 14Z(a) of the Act:

- Floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
- Floating water primroses *Ludwigia spp.*
- New Zealand pigmyweed aka Australian stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*
- Parrot's-feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
- Water fern *Azolla filiculoides*

Ahead of the April 2014 deadline, these five species had already been included on the list of plants B&Q do not stock.

In **Northern Ireland**, a number of additional species are included under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (2011).

In **Scotland** the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (as amended by Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011), makes it unlawful to plant (or cause to grow) any non-native plants in the wild (except for those listed on exceptions orders, see link to Scottish Government website).

In the **Republic of Ireland**, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. No 477) prevents the movement and trade of species included under Schedule 3: Part 1.

Below is a list of species that B&Q do not and will not stock in any of our UK and Ireland (NI and IE) stores. We maintain and update this list on an annual basis and in doing so work with and seek the advice of the RHS and Plantlife, and reference the appropriate legislation in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland:

Latin Name	Common Name
AQUATICS	
<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	Cape pondweed (IE)
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Water Fern
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Fanwort
<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i>	Green algae – sea grapes
<i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i>	Green algae – seaweed
<i>Codium fragile</i>	Green Seafingers
<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	New Zealand Pygmy Weed
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Large-flowered waterweed (IE) (NI)
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water Hyacinth
<i>Elodea</i> (inc <i>canadensis</i> , <i>nuttallii</i> , <i>densa</i>)	Pondweed
<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Floating Pennywort
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Curly Waterweed
<i>Ludwigia</i> spp.	Water primrose
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	Skunk Cabbage
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrot's Feather
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Fringed water lily
<i>Pistia stratioides</i>	Water Lettuce
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickerelweed
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Giant Salvinia
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Duck-potato
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water chestnut (IE) (NI)
TERRESTIAL	
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Pirri-pirri bur
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of heaven
<i>Allium paradoxum</i>	Few-flowered Leek
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered leek
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig
<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	Hollyberry cotoneaster
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Wall Spray
<i>Cotoneaster integrifolius</i>	Small-leaved cotoneaster
<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Himalyan cotoneaster
<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i>	Purple Dewplant
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed
<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Giant knotweed
<i>Fallopia japonica x sachalinensis</i> (<i>F. x bohemica</i>)	Hybrid Knotweed
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Shallon
<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	Giant Rhubarb (IE)
<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Giant Rhubarb
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed

<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea buckthorn
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> (<i>Scilla campanulata</i>)	Spanish Bluebell
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> x <i>H non-scripta</i>	Hybrid Bluebell
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalayan Balsam
<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Rush (IE)
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp argentatum</i>	Variegated Yellow Archangel subspecies
<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>	False Virginia-creeper
<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Mile-a-minute weed (IE) (NI)
<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Himalayan knotweed (IE) (NI)
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Rhododendron luteum</i>	Yellow Azalea
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> x <i>R. maximum</i>	Hybrid Rhododendron
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese Rose
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Salmonberry (IE) (NI)
<i>Sasa palmata</i>	Broad leaved bamboo
<i>Smyrniurn perfoliatum</i>	Perforated Alexanders

In addition to the non-native species above we will also avoid *Nymphaea alba* (white water lily), *Typha latifolia* (bulrush) and *Stratiotes aloides* (Water soldier). Although these are native species, they can quickly outgrow small garden ponds and disrupt both the benefits and the pleasure that a pond can bring to a garden.

Upcoming Rules

The EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation, to harmonise the way in which Member States co-operate to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species, came into force on 1 January 2015. From this date the Commission has 12 months to propose lists of species that will be subject to the measures required by the legislation, and Member States will have between 1-3 years to put in place those measures.

The Irish regulations concerning the sale of invasive species are not yet in force, but are expected to be enacted by the end of 2014. The law will then be strict: it will be an offence to possess any of the listed plants for sale, or for the purposes of breeding, reproduction or propagation, or to offer them for sale, transportation, distribution, introduction or release. It will also be an offence to import or transport these species.

Amendments to the Wildlife & Countryside Act for England and Wales were enacted in the 2015 Infrastructure Act. The amendments introduce a provision for species control agreements between environmental authorities and the owners of premises for the eradication or control of non-native invasive species on their land; control or eradication may be enforced through a species control order where there is a failure of compliance. The non-native invasive species covered by the amendments are those listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act.

Best Practice Recommendations

B&Q Invasive Non-Native Plant Species Buying Standard August 2015

Non-invasive plants and seeds that have been included on a reputable, regionally relevant, wildlife list can be included under the Kingfisher Eco Product Guidelines as a Best in Class or One Planet Home product.

The Horticultural Code of Practice for England and Wales (Defra 2011) <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=328> sets out advice and guidance on the responsible use, control and disposal of invasive non-native plants, for people using plants in the horticultural trade, gardening, or related activities.

The Be Plant Wise campaigns (GB <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise/> ; Ireland <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise/>) is designed to raise awareness among gardeners, pond owners and retailers of the damage caused by non-native invasive aquatic plants and to encourage the public to dispose of these plants correctly.

Plantlife, The Horticultural Trades Association and the Royal Horticultural Society have produced three guides to species you can use in place of harmful non-native invasives: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=303>

Reporting Requirements and Key Performance Indicators

The Range Sustainability Rating will include assessment of the relevant ranges. This rating is compiled annually by B&Q Social Responsibility.

For the Best Practice Recommendations of achieving targets based on the Kingfisher Eco Product Guidelines, these are reported quarterly and annually by B&Q Social Responsibility. This reporting includes a check by BioRegional that all products do fulfil the relevant criteria.

Linked Policies

- Kingfisher Eco Product Guidelines

Further Reading

- Plant life: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/invasive_plants/
- RHS Online: <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/advicesearch/Profile.aspx?pid=530>
- Non-Native Species Secretariat: www.nonnativespecies.org
- Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>
- The Horticultural Trades Association: www.the-hta.org.uk
- Ornamental Aquatic Trades Association: <http://www.ornamentalfish.org/>
- Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology (POSTnote): <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/POST-PN-439>

Relevant legislation :

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 NB differs in effect between England & Wales and Scotland:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> (some amendments are yet to be noted on this page, in particular those made by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011)
- Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/15/schedule/1/paragraph/9>
- Rep. of Ire S.I. No. 477 (2011) – European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats):
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2011/en.si.2011.0477.pdf>
- Other relevant Scottish legislation and advice:
www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats/InvasiveSpecies
- Infrastructure Act 2015:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/7/enacted>