


PROJECT PROFILE

Title	Identification, treatment and control of non-native invasive plant species on Irish roads
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Start date	Nov-14
End date	Jun-15
Status	Complete
Type of project	TII Research Project
Project reference	NRA04250/RPIAS

Description	<p>This research project relates to the requirement to develop a TII national strategy for the identification, treatment and control of non-native invasive plant species on the Irish road network. The current guidelines on the “Management of noxious weeds and non-native invasive plant species on National Road Schemes”, originally developed in 2006 and revised in 2010, address the predominant noxious weed and non-native invasive plant species likely to be encountered during the planning, construction and maintenance of national road schemes. However, recent observations have shown that non-native plant species, especially Japanese Knotweed and Giant Rhubarb, are continuing to spread along national roads in some local locations.</p>	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance to TII in the development of an overall national strategy for the identification, treatment and controlling the spread of non-native plant species including the development of communication materials and awareness raising; • Select two pilot counties, in cooperation with TII, with significant infestations of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Rhubarb along national roads with a view to tracking and identifying the actual primary sources of contamination; • Identify appropriate and effective treatments for the primary sources of contamination identified on the national road network in order to eliminate any further spread of these plants on the network. • Develop a specification for implementation of these treatments at national level. 	
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A communications strategy in place nationally that targets landowners, state bodies and the general public. <input type="checkbox"/> A rapid survey method developed which identifies key infestations and facilitates a phased and cost-effective programme of control in two counties. <input type="checkbox"/> A strategic framework devised based on the above research findings which facilitates the development of a phased national control programme. <input type="checkbox"/> An evidence based report provided which analyses key findings and makes detailed recommendations for national control. 	

Japanese Knotweed – Foliage

Outputs

The four deliverables were:

- A communications strategy and preparation of appropriate materials for dissemination, as agreed with NRA
- Development and delivery of a rapid survey method to assess the prevalence of infestations; sources of infestation, and high risk sites
- Survey completed for two counties
- An evidence-based report which details the methods used, analyses the findings and makes recommendations for a national strategy for control and eradication

Outputs will include:

- An effective communications strategy for national roll-out
- Development of a cost-effective survey method that is tested for its accuracy across two counties with a view to national roll-out
- A survey completed of Japanese knotweed and Giant rhubarb in two counties, and a strategic map for control and eradication developed
- A report which provides the strategic foundation for a national control programme