

Impatiens glandulifera

Policeman's Helmet

Balsaminaceae, the impatiens family

Category: **EDRR**



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Annual; herbaceous and grows 6-10 feet tall
- Stems are purple or reddish tinged and hollow
- Leaves can be opposite or whorled, oblong, elliptic, or egg-shaped, with serrated leaf margins
- Flower colors range from white to purple or pink; resembles an old-fashioned English policeman's helmet

Background

- Native to India; introduced as an ornamental
- Inhabits moist areas and riparian zones
- Reproduces by seed and are explosively ejected up to a distance of 20 feet when the mature pods are touched
- Considered extremely invasive in Britain

Photo Credit:

Richard Old, XID Services, www.xidservices.com

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