

# “B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,  
but may have limited distribution in some counties

**Policeman’s helmet**  
*Impatiens glandulifera*

**Other common names:** Ornamental  
jewelhead, jewelhead, Himalayan balsam

**USDA symbol:** IMGL  
**ODA rating:** B



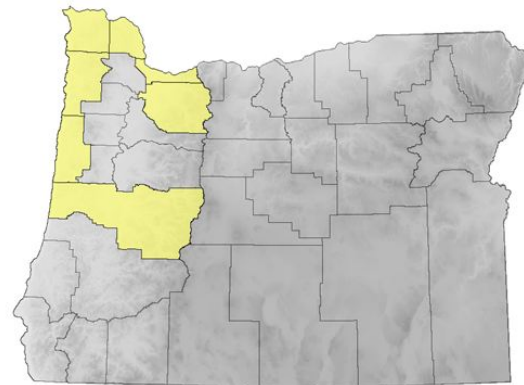
**Distribution in Oregon:** Populations in Oregon have been identified in the Salmon River and Sandy River watersheds, in the Five Rivers area in Lincoln County and Wolf Creek in western Lane County. Smaller infestations have also been spotted in Clatsop County.

**Introduction:** Native to India and western Himalaya. Policeman’s helmet is established in areas of western Washington and in the lower Fraser Valley of British Columbia.

**Description:** Policeman’s helmet is an herbaceous annual that is succulent, smooth stemmed, and hairless. The plants can reach the height of 10 feet tall, although can be smaller. The upright, hollow stems are easily broken and have a purple tinge. The leaf arrangement can be opposite or whorled with three leaves per node. Leaf shape varies from oblong to egg-shaped, with serrated edges. Flowers are solitary, irregular, ranges from white to all shades of pink in color, with 5 petals (2 fused) and 3 sepals (2 fused) and five fused stamens. The overall flower shape resembles an English policeman’s helmet. The fruit is a 5-chambered capsule. The seed capsules are elongated and when disturbed, the mature capsule explodes ejecting up to 800 seeds.

**Impacts:** Policeman’s helmet forms dense stands along river systems and moist lowlands, excluding native forbs.

**Biological controls:** No approved biological control agents are available at this time.



2014 Policeman’s helmet

