



Giant rhubarb - *Gunnera tinctoria*

Native to South America and introduced to the UK as an ornamental plant it is now naturalised in scattered locations throughout much of lowland UK. Infestations tend not to be large in GB, but large areas of Ireland has suffered invasion. A perennial plant which is recognised by the massive leaves and spikey stems up to 2m tall. Over winter the plant dies down but grows new leaves in spring. Once established, it can be very invasive and form dense colonies, suppressing native plants as the large leaves prevent other plants growing underneath them. It can also impede water flow through the obstruction of drainage in adjacent streams and rivers particularly when water levels are high.

Management Options:

Chemical Treatment

Glyphosate at 6l/ha treatment of mature growth, either by weedwipe or knapsack or long-lance sprayer.

Suitability:

Equipment: Knapsack sprayer, long-lance. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.

Efficiency: Good, but regrowth likely from rhizome or seeds.

Constraints: Requires AqHerb01 approval from the Environment Agency and NPTC PA1 & PA6 qualifications. Potential non-target damage.

Chemical Treatment

Glyphosate applied at 10/1 dilution to freshly cut stumps. Alginate formulation may assist application.

Suitability: An alginate formulation may improve efficiency.

Equipment: Knapsack sprayer, weed wiper. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.

Efficiency: Good, particularly in sensitive areas, but regrowth likely from rhizome or seeds.

Constraints: Requires AqHerb01 approval from the Environment Agency and NPTC PA1 & PA6 qualifications.

Time Scale

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chemical – mature growth												
Chemical – cut stumps												

