

# Spotting aliens



Pheasant



Himalayan Balsam



Giant Hogweed



Ragwort



Mink



Sycamore



Grey Squirrel



Fallow Deer



Buddleia



For hundreds of years people have been responsible for introducing alien plant and animal species to Britain, intentionally or by mistake. These new species can become established and spread successfully if they can out-compete native wildlife. They can become a nuisance if they take away resources from native species (as is the case for Sycamores and Grey Squirrels), are poisonous (examples are Ragwort and Giant Hogweed), or predate native species (as Mink do, notably with Water Voles).