

Instructions

2-6 players

Top Invasive Species

- Deal all the cards out equally.
- Players should hold their cards in a face-up stack so they can only see their top card.
- The starting player chooses one attribute, everyone reads out the attribute value from their top card. Whoever has the highest value wins all the cards in that round.
- The cards are collected by the winner and placed at the bottom of their stack.
- Whoever won the cards then leads the next round, choosing any attribute to challenge on.
- If a player runs out of cards they are out. The winner is the person who collects all the cards.

Instructions

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- In the event of a tie, all the players place their top cards from the round in the middle of the table.
A next round is played (led by the same player as the previous round). The winning player of this round gets the cards from the round and the pile of cards from the last round.

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Attributes

Invasive score (0 - 10)

The overall invasive impact of the species.

GB distribution (0 - 10)

The extent the species has spread across GB.

Height/Length

The maximum height or length the plant can grow to in ideal conditions, in metres (m).

Seeds

The number of seeds (or spores) a plant can produce every year.

From home

The distance the species is from its home / native range, in kilometres (km).

Japanese rose



Fact file

Also known as the Rugosa rose, this shrub is commonly planted in gardens.

It forms large dense thickets that smother native species and reduce biodiversity in an area.

Invasive score 5

GB distribution 5

Height/length 1.5m

No. seeds 800

From home 9,000km

Top Invasive Species

Bamboo



Fact file

A very popular garden ornamental plant that grows in dense thickets and outcompetes native plant species.

Some varieties can spread aggressively using rhizomes.

Invasive score 6

GB distribution 3

Height/length 4m

No. seeds 0

From home 4,500km

Top Invasive Species

False-acacia



Fact file

This tree was brought to GB as it has fragrant flowers and attractive leaves.

It spreads through both root suckers, which can cause structural damage to property, and seeds. It also shades out native species.

Invasive score 4

GB distribution 4

Height/length 12m

No. seeds 50,000

From home 5,800km

Top Invasive Species

Himalayan balsam



Fact file

Grows extensively along river banks taking over and out-competing native flowers.

It has exploding seed pods which can fling seeds an amazing 7m from the plant!

Invasive score	8
GB distribution	8
Height/length	2.5m
No. seeds	800
From home	7,000km

Top Invasive Species

Japanese knotweed



Fact file

Spreads by underground creeping rhizomes (like roots). These can grow through hard materials and cause structural damage to property.

A tiny fragment of broken off rhizome can grow into a new plant!

Invasive score	10
GB distribution	9
Height/length	3m
No. seeds	0
From home	9,000km

Top Invasive Species

Giant hogweed



Fact file

Large plant with huge jaggy leaves and big white flower heads on tall stems. Will only flower once in it's lifetime.

The plant contains a toxic sap which causes skin burns.

Don't touch!

Invasive score	9
GB distribution	6
Height/length	5m
No. seeds	40,000
From home	3,500km

Top Invasive Species

American skunk cabbage



Fact file

Grows in wet boggy ground. It's striking yellow "flowers" are actually leaves which attract insects to its seed head.

Gets its name because when flowering it smells like a skunk!

Invasive score	5
GB distribution	2
Height/length	1.5m
No. seeds	1,500
From home	7,500km

Top Invasive Species

White butterbur



Fact file

Its white flower spikes appear early in the year before the leaves appear later.

The leaves are large and form a dense carpet covering the ground and preventing other plants growing beside it.

Invasive score	7
GB distribution	1
Height/length	0.5m
No. seeds	0
From home	2,000km

Top Invasive Species

Rhododendron



Fact file

Introduced to parks and gardens by gardeners in the 18th century.

It has now spread to ecologically important areas such as woodlands and heathlands where it shades out native plants.

Invasive score	8
GB distribution	10
Height/length	5m
No. seeds	7,000
From home	1,500km

Top Invasive Species

Giant rhubarb (Gunnera)



Fact file

It has huge leathery umbrella-like leaves - each on a thick spiky stem.

It was popular as an impressive garden plant but quickly outgrew gardens and spread into the wild.

Invasive score	6
GB distribution	2
Height/length	2m
No. seeds	250,000
From home	9,000km

Top Invasive Species

Floating pennywort



Fact file

A water plant with leaves that look like mini lily pads.

It grows in dense mats on the water surface affecting the temperate and oxygen content of the water below.

Invasive score	5
GB distribution	2
Height/length	0.2m
No. seeds	0
From home	5,000km

Top Invasive Species

Sitka spruce



Fact file

Brought to the GB to plant in commercial forests - it remains the main GB timber tree - but seeds can spread outside plantations and grow new trees in native habitats like moorlands.

Invasive score	3
GB distribution	9
Height/length	100m
No. seeds	5,000
From home	7,500km

Top Invasive Species

New Zealand pigmyweed



Fact file

A small waterweed with thick, fleshy leaves. It forms dense mats on the water surface and underwater which reduces the oxygen levels in the water.

It can grow so densely to make boat navigation difficult.

Invasive score	6
GB distribution	5
Height/length	3m
No. seeds	0
From home	18,000km

Top Invasive Species

Curly waterweed



Fact file

Grows almost entirely underwater with just the tips of the plant on the surface.

Its long rope like strands can impede water flow, reduce oxygen levels in the water and prevent boat navigation.

Invasive score	5
GB distribution	4
Height/length	4m
No. seeds	0
From home	5,000km

Top Invasive Species

Parrot's feather



Fact file

Used as a pond and aquarium plant and then dumped into countryside ponds.

Plant fragments spread by boats, clothing and even by birds/animals.

Forms dense mats in the water.

Invasive score	4
GB distribution	3
Height/length	2m
No. seeds	0
From home	7,500km

Top Invasive Species

Russian vine



Fact file

This climbing vine can creep many metres and will grow over native trees and shrubs and cover buildings.

Became established in the countryside having been fly tipped at roadsides with garden waste.

Invasive score	7
GB distribution	4
Height/length	12m
No. seeds	4,000
From home	4,000km

Top Invasive Species

Turkey oak



Fact file

This is one of many non-native trees that grow in GB.

It has spread quickly and invaded native woodlands and lowland heath, reducing biodiversity.

It has furry acorns!

Invasive score	1
GB distribution	5
Height/length	30m
No. seeds	10,000
From home	2,000km

Top Invasive Species

Water hyacinth



Fact file

This free floating aquatic plant grows in still water such as ponds, lochs or canals and can reproduce very quickly - doubling in number every 2 weeks!

At present has minimal impact and limited distribution in GB.

Invasive score	1
GB distribution	1
Height/length	1m
No. seeds	2,000
From home	8,500km

Top Invasive Species

Cotoneaster



Fact file

A very popular garden shrub its flowers are attractive to pollinators and its small red berries to birds.

However, when it escapes gardens it can establish in the wild, become dominant and exclude native species.

Invasive score	4
GB distribution	8
Height/length	4m
No. seeds	100,000
From home	7,000km

Top Invasive Species

Buddleia



Fact file

Popular as a garden plant as it is a favourite of butterflies and bees. However it outcompetes native flowers.

Can grow on wasteland and is often found growing along railway lines.

Invasive score	5
GB distribution	9
Height/length	5m
No. seeds	3 million
From home	9,000km

Top Invasive Species

Water fern



Fact file

This tiny plant grows in a mat that is so dense it can make the water surface appear solid.

Amphibians and insects are unable to reach the surface and animals aren't able to swim through it!

Invasive score	5
GB distribution	3
Height/length	0.1m
No. seeds	0
From home	6,000km

Top Invasive Species

Himalayan knotweed



Fact file

This is a garden escapee which grows on damp grassland and stream sides.

Grows in very dense stands and prevents native flowers from growing.

Invasive score	5
GB distribution	2
Height/length	2m
No. seeds	0
From home	7,000km

Top Invasive Species

Hottentot-fig



Fact file

This plant with trailing flowers grows on the coast, spreading over cliffs and sand dunes.

It spreads readily forming dense carpets, outcompeting native species and preventing their growth.

Invasive score	5
GB distribution	1
Height/length	3m
No. seeds	100
From home	10,000km

Top Invasive Species

Japanese kelp (Wakame)



Fact file

This seaweed, which is thought to have arrived in GB attached to a ship's hull, spreads rapidly through the production of millions of spores.

It fouls hulls of boats and harbour structures and can clog marinas making them unusable.

Invasive score	6
GB distribution	1
Height/length	2.5m
No. seeds	5 million
From home	9,000km

Top Invasive Species

Wireweed



Fact file

A type of seaweed which arrived attached to imported oysters.

Once it reaches a new area it spreads rapidly and out-competes native seaweeds. It also causes a nuisance in harbours and on beaches.

Invasive score	8
GB distribution	1
Height/length	1.5m
No. seeds	200,000
From home	6,500km

Top Invasive Species

Montbretia



Fact file

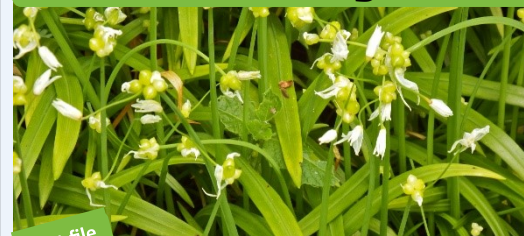
This very popular garden flower is thought to have escaped into the wild through the careless disposal of garden waste.

It can outcompete native plants and can establish in a range of habitats.

Invasive score	1
GB distribution	8
Height/length	1m
No. seeds	200
From home	10,000km

Top Invasive Species

Few-flowered garlic



Fact file

This plant can be very invasive in damp woodlands and is abundant in southern Scotland.

Spreads by small green bulbs on the flower heads known as "bulbils" - which can float on water.

Invasive score	2
GB distribution	3
Height/length	0.5m
No. seeds	0
From home	4,500km

Top Invasive Species