

UK Invasive Species Wordsearch

Invasive non-native species are species which have been introduced to an area outside of their natural range and are causing a whole host of problems. They can threaten our native species by spreading disease, feeding on them or competing with them for food or space. The problems caused by invasive species, such as habitat and property damage and increased flood risks, end up being very expensive, costing Great Britain around £1.7 billion annually.

Below you will find some top facts about **invasive species** found in the UK and the **native species** they harm. Can you find the names of all the species in the wordsearch? (Remember, the words could be backwards!)

H S I F Y A R C D E W A L C E T I H W D
 Z A E N A E J P G H R T T T I I B S B R
 N H C X E X G A U E J E D G H R N I T I
 F L O A T I N G P E N N Y W O R T G E B
 L E W K R R C G A R X K N W N W T N E Y
 F E K A H P S V O Z I I N A E P E A K D
 S E R Q T U E H Y L J R M K Y E Y L A A
 G P H R Q E N T L F A Q L Q B G E C R L
 M Z F J I A R E S T P M E H E P M R A N
 J J X F I U R V N E H G B Q E D I A P I
 K X N S Y S Q Q O Q A K B C Y U P Y K U
 V A A T H Y C S M L Y S D K A Z B F N Q
 S G K R Y U Y R Y F E B Q G O J M I O E
 K N I M N A C I R E M A Q U R J S S M L
 K M R E D S Q U I R R E L I I D R H D R
 P O F C V P Z R Y F R G B Q V R C M Q A
 H H H C L P D N Q X X K M C K U T Z Z H
 A M E R I C A N S K U N K C A B B A G E

Invasive Species Facts

- The **killer shrimp** is considered to be one of the most successful invaders of freshwater systems and is capable of expanding its range by 124 km per year.
- Widely introduced outside of its native range, the **harlequin ladybird** poses a threat to native ladybird species, both by outcompeting and directly eating them.
- The invasive **carpet sea squirt** gets its nickname 'marine vomit' due to its unappealing appearance.
- The invasive **floating pennywort** has an extremely rapid growth rate, being able to expand by 20 cm a day!
- A voracious predator, the **American mink** eats a wide variety of prey and has been implicated in dramatic declines in the **water vole** population in the UK.
- The **American skunk-cabbage** gets its name from the pungent, skunk-like smell of its flowers which attracts pollinators. This invasive species alters plant communities by shading out native plants due to its large size.
- A carrier of the crayfish plague, the **signal crayfish** is a major threat to other crayfish species, including the British **white-clawed crayfish**.
- A major predator of the **honey bee**, the **Asian hornet** is capable of destroying up to 30 percent of a bee colony in just a couple of hours!
- Native to North America, the **grey squirrel** carries the parapox virus, which is known to spread to our native **red squirrel**.
- The **monk parakeet** builds heavy stick nests which can cause power cuts when it nests on electricity pylons.
- The invasive **brown rat** damages property and causes electrical hazards by chewing through wires.

You can find out more about UK invasive species and discover what they look like by visiting:
<http://www.arkive.org/uk-invasive-species/>