

WeedWise tips to target policeman's helmet

⊙ *Know your invader.* Familiarize yourself with the identification, and management of policeman's helmet.

⊙ *Inspect your property.* Keep an eye open around your property for policeman's helmet, particularly along streams and roadsides.

⊙ *Control policeman's helmet before it becomes a problem.* Control policeman's helmet when patches are small and manageable to reduce the time and expense needed to be successful.

⊙ *Know when to seek help.* Some weeds may require particular methods or techniques for control to be successful. Contact the **WeedWise** program for additional information about a particular weed or management practice.

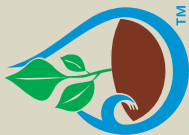
⊙ *Don't spread policeman's helmet.* Properly dispose of pulled plants. Bag flowering plants and dispose of them with trash. Don't compost policeman's helmet once it has started to set seed.

⊙ *Be patient and diligent.* Understand that controlling and preventing the reinfestation of policeman's helmet is a long term process.



Policeman's helmet locations in Clackamas County
The red dots depict the known policeman's helmet locations.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
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Policeman's helmet
Impatiens glandulifera

Policeman's Helmet



Management



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
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Good dirt. Clean water.



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Policeman's Helmet



Above: A large Policeman's helmet patch



Clockwise from upper left: Policeman's helmet seeds and exploded fruit, close up of spurred flower, Large policeman's helmet plant in full bloom, Leaves and stem of policeman's helmet.



What is Policeman's helmet?

Policeman's helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is an annual weed threatening streams and rivers throughout our area. This aggressive streamside invader was introduced as an ornamental plant from Asia. It is highly invasive and forms dense patches wherever it occurs.

What does it look like?

Adult policeman's helmet reaches heights up to 10 feet at maturity. It produces white to purple spurred flowers that develop into pods that explode when ripe. The leaves are oval in shape and deeply serrated. Policeman's helmet is shallowly rooted and most commonly found growing near water.

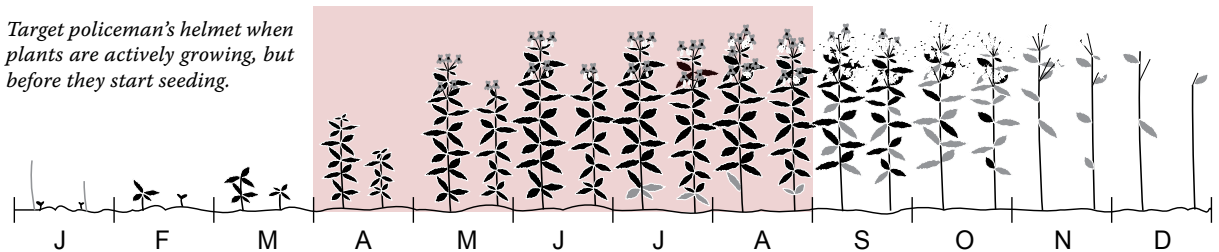
Why should I worry about Policeman's helmet?

Policeman's helmet is a fast-growing noxious weed that displaces native vegetation needed by wildlife for food and shelter. Sites invaded by policeman's helmet experience increased soil erosion especially along streams and rivers.

How does policeman's helmet spread?

Policeman's helmet is spread exclusively by seed. Introduced as a garden ornamental, policeman's helmet is likely still traded informally. The exploding fruit of policeman's helmet can disperse seeds up to 15 feet away from parent plants. Seeds are also spread on shoes, clothing, and equipment.

Target policeman's helmet when plants are actively growing, but before they start seeding.



The floating seeds of policeman's helmet can also be spread great distances along streams and rivers.

How do I control policeman's helmet on my property?

As a shallow rooted annual plant, policeman's helmet is readily controlled by hand pulling adult plants. If plants have flowered they should be bagged and disposed of as trash to prevent spreading seed.

Mowing of dense patches can also be effective at preventing flowering and seed production, but mowed plants may regrow to bloom later in the season. Mowed plants should be monitored for regrowth and pulled if necessary.

Herbicides can be a useful tool when dealing with large infestations. Choose glyphosate based herbicides that are approved for use around water. These herbicides have been shown to be the most effective for controlling policeman's helmet in our area.

Control plants when actively growing. Avoid treatment activities once plants have started seeding.

Before beginning an herbicide application, contact the **WeedWise** Program or consult the *Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook* (<http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>) for the most up-to-date herbicide recommendations.

Samuel Leininger, Clackamas SWCD

REPORT POLICEMAN'S HELMET!

Have you noticed invasive *policeman's helmet* in your area? Report your sightings to the District's **WeedWise** program, or submit them online at oregoninvasiveshotline.org.



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