

# Shrub balsam

## *Impatiens sodenii*

### Family

Balsaminaceae (balsam)

### Also known as

### Where is it originally from?

East Africa.

### What does it look like?

Shrub (<2 m) with green, hairless, succulent stems. Leaves (120 x 35 mm) are in whorls. Pale pink flowers (50-65 mm in diameter) are present most of the year.

### Are there any similar species?

*Impatiens walleriana* (also known as *I. holstii*, *I. sultanii*, busy Lizzie) is smaller, has orange or red flowers, and occasionally escapes from gardens.

### Why is it weedy?

Roots at nodes, spreads by layering, and forms dense stands in degraded and revegetating forest. Moderate to high shade tolerance.

### How does it spread?

Fragments are spread by greenwaste dumping and water movement. Common garden and pot plant.

### What damage does it do?

Replaces other vegetation on forest floor, and prevents seedlings of native species establishing.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Moves slowly from the margins into damp lowland forest in high rainfall areas.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

Begin control programme at the top of the catchment to prevent reinfestation during flooding.

1. Dig out: dispose of all parts at refuse transfer station, bury or burn.
2. Spray: glyphosate (150ml/15L + penetrant (knapsack) or 10ml/L + penetrant (spraygun spray)) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (4g/15L + penetrant (knapsack) or 20g/100L + penetrant (spraygun)). Avoid spray runoff.

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Limited herbicide follow up required.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



Photo: Trevor James



Photo: Carolyn Lewis