

INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY

- Summary 2009

The INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY was established by the Data Centre in Spring 2009 to encourage the recording of eight of Ireland's most unwanted invasive plant species. Since then 2,856 recording cards have been posted to over 175 individuals including all Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officers (including those in Northern Ireland), all National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Rangers, staff in other State Bodies such as the Regional Fisheries Boards, non-governmental organisations, naturalist field clubs and interested individual recorders.

A section of the National Invasive Species Database website was also dedicated to the survey which includes a specially designed online submission form, excel template, identification sheets and promotion materials. All available from: <http://invasivespecies.biodiversityireland.ie>



RESULTS

By end of 2009, just 37 recording cards were returned which accounts for a dismal 1.3% of the total sent out. However some people were using the recording cards in the field and then submitting the information electronically. Overall, a total of 616 records were received. 418 of these records were for 5 of the 8 target species (Fig. 1).

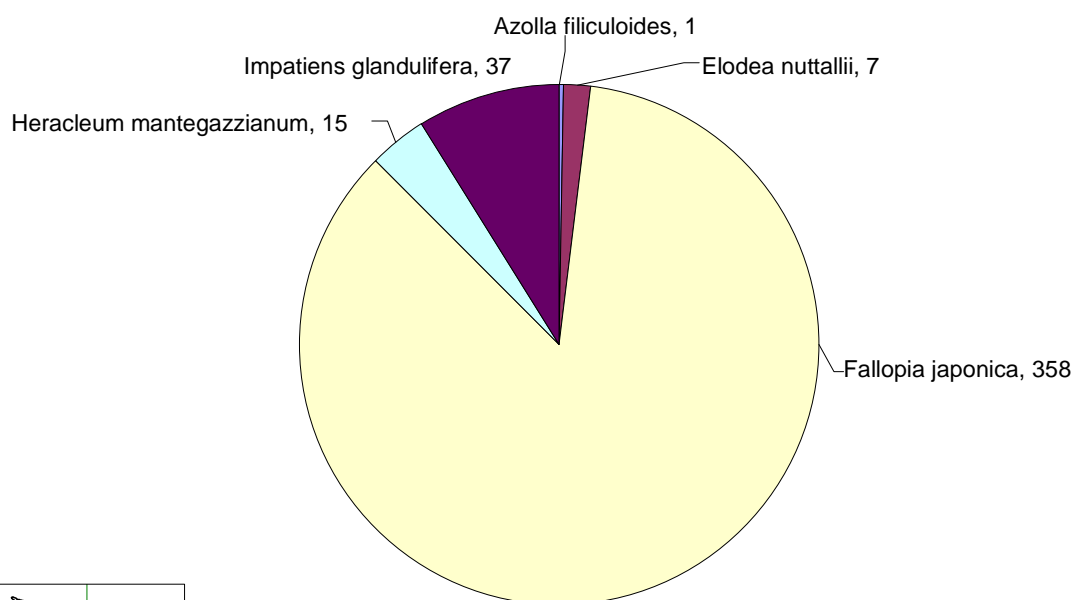


Figure 1. Number of records received for the target species

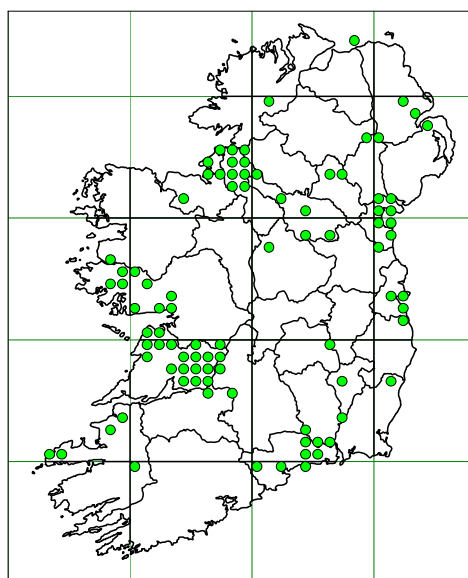


Figure 2. Distribution of target species records

Figure 2 shows the distribution map of all records received for the target species in 2009. While valuable data has been collected from many parts of the country including Northern Ireland, much of it is clustered and this reflects the trojan work done by some of the recorders in their local areas. The clustering of data for Counties Leitrim and north-east Sligo can be attributed to the 230 records submitted by NPWS Conservation Ranger Fiona Farrell. For Co. Clare, targeted recording was co-occurring for a county wide invasive species survey and John Brophy NPWS Conservation Ranger was also very active in recording target invasive species in Counties Louth and Dublin. See Table 1 for the list of Data Providers.

No records were received for three of the target species - *Crassula helmsii*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and *Myriophyllum aquaticum*. The known distribution of these species is more limited and therefore they may not be as likely to be encountered.

VALUE OF THE DATA COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY

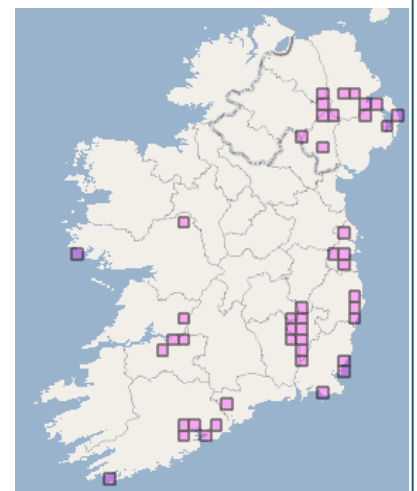
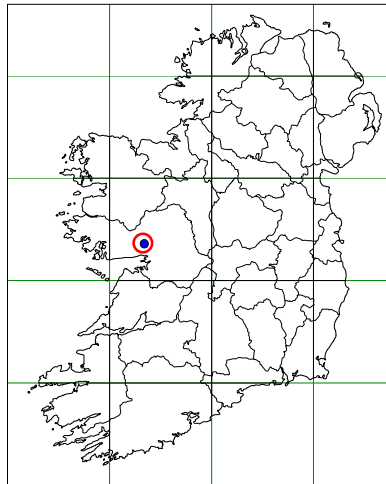
- ✓ The records received for each of the target species are shown in the left hand side map at the 10km² resolution. By comparing this map with the distribution map of records currently in the National Invasive Species Database (right side map) we can identify at the 10km² resolution newly recorded areas for that species. These records have been outlined in red on the map and show where an early warning alert should be given for rapid response to its control.
- ✓ The other records received are also of great value as they give up-to-date information indicating that the species is still present in the area.
- ✓ The records received in the 2009 survey will be added to the National Invasive Species Database by end of January, 2010.

Azolla filiculoides

- Water fern



Photo courtesy of Colette O' Flynn

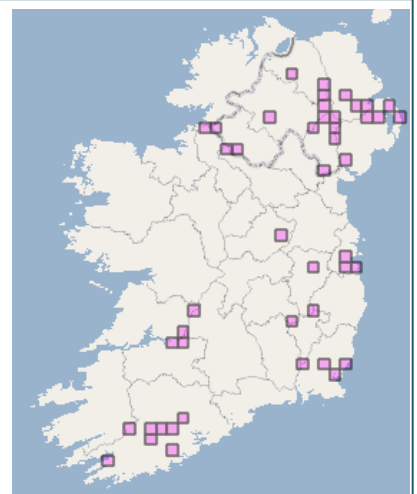
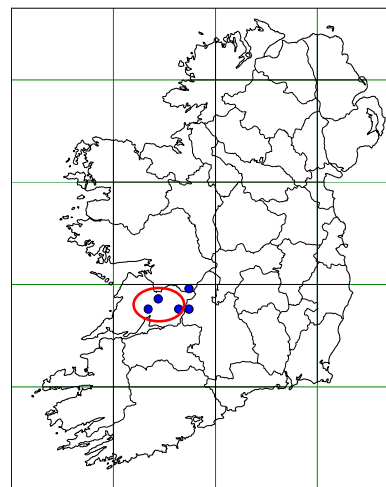


Elodea nuttallii

- Nuttall's Waterweed



Photo courtesy of GB NNSS

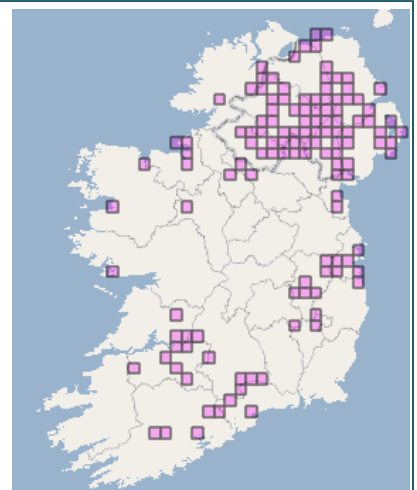
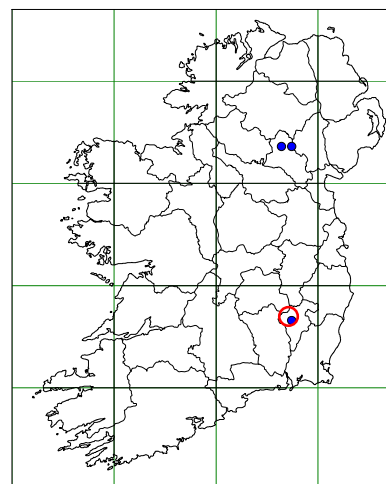


Heracleum mantegazzianum

- Giant Hogweed



Photo courtesy of Joe Caffrey

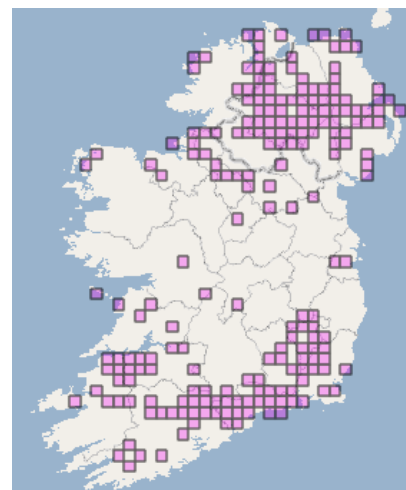
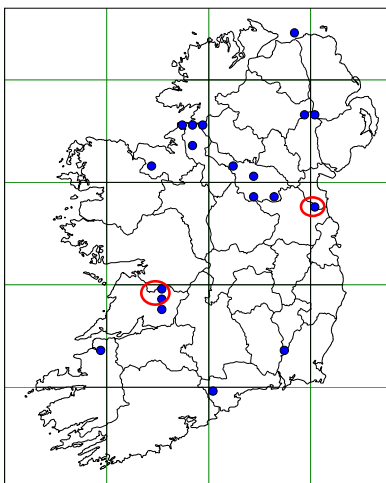


Impatiens glandulifera

- Himalayan Balsam



Photo courtesy of Colette O' Flynn

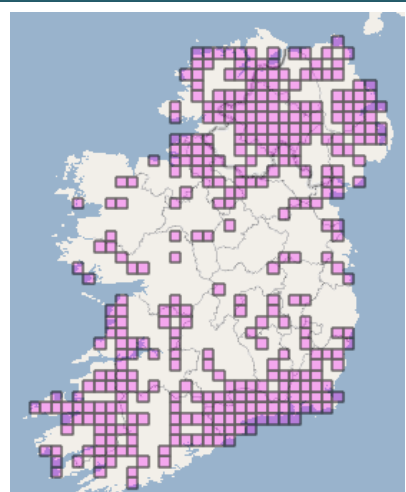
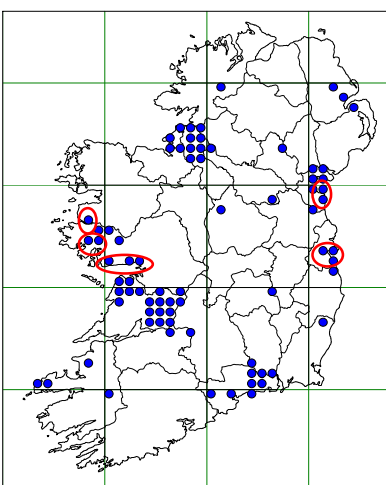


Fallopia japonica

- Japanese Knotweed



Photo courtesy of Colette O' Flynn



NON-TARGET SPECIES

Valuable records were also received for other invasive species. The distribution and count of these species are shown below.

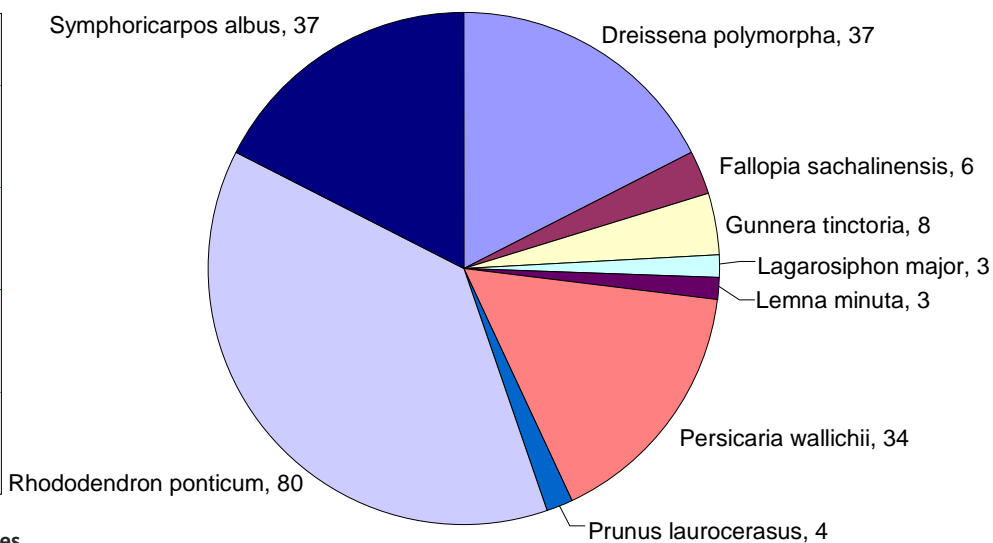
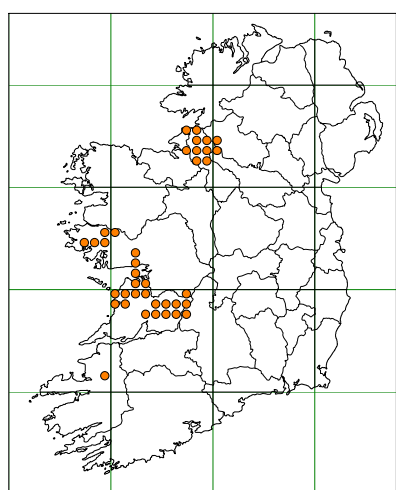


Figure 3. Distribution of non-target species


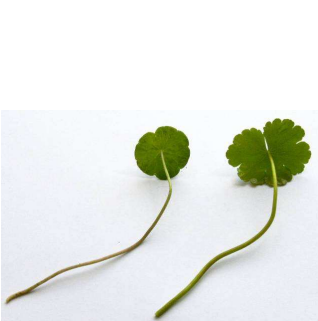

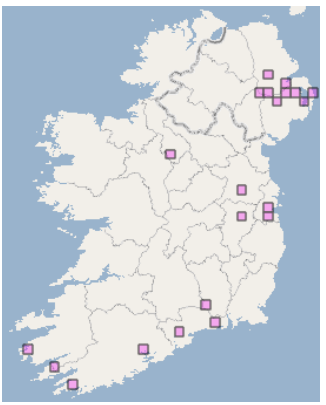
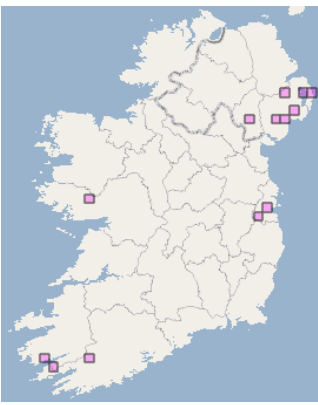
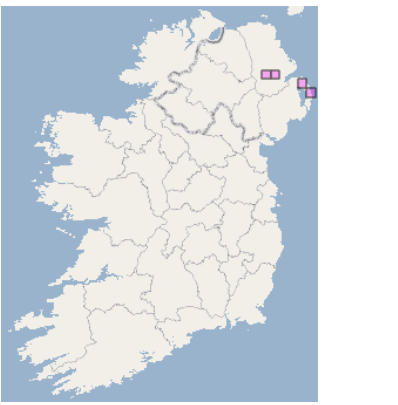
Figure 4. Number of records received for non-target species

SURVEY TARGETS FOR 2010

- Increased awareness and up-take of the survey with a greater return on recording cards and records.
- To receive records for the three target species not recorded in 2009; *Crassula helmsii*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and *Myriophyllum aquaticum*. The latter species is sold as a popular pond plant and so it may be more likely than the former two species to be found 'escaped' or 'discarded' in the wild. See photos and current distribution maps below.
- While continued submission of records for all areas is vitally important, an expansion of surveying effort outside of the clustered areas is desirable with particular emphasis on obtaining records from the counties where no recording occurred. See map Fig 5.



Figure 5. Records were received for the counties shaded in green and none for the counties shaded in white

<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
		
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Photos are courtesy of GB NNSS		
Please become familiar with the identification features of these plants from the identification sheets available on the website.		

Data Providers - 2009

Data Providers	Counties Recorded
Aisling Donegan	Sligo
Colette O' Flynn	Waterford
Dave Mc Donagh	Cavan, Donegal, Westmeath
David Lyons	Clare
Deborah D'Arcy	Wexford
Elaine Keegan	Limerick
Elaine O' Riordan, Michael Crowley	Galway, Mayo
Eugenie Regan	Waterford
Fiona Farrell	Leitrim, Donegal, Sligo
Fons Caspers	Tipperary
Gary O' Toole	Kildare
Jacinta Murphy	Carlow
John Brophy	Louth, Dublin, Meath, Wicklow
Kevin Rogers	Clare, Galway
Liam Lysaght	Kerry
Lindsay Matthews	Antrim
Lorcan Scott	Carlow, Galway
Neill Foulkes	Kerry
Paul Higgins	Longford
Paul Murphy	Clare
Peter Cooper	Tipperary
Reggie Killops	Waterford
Ryan Wilson-Parr	Sligo
Shirley Clerkin	Monaghan
Susan Lynn	Antrim, Armagh, Down, Tyrone, L'Derry
Thomas O' Flynn	Dublin

Table 1. List of Data Providers and the counties they recorded in for 2009

A sincere thank you to all of those who recorded and submitted records to the INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY in 2009. This survey is continuing for 2010 and we hope to receive more information on the whereabouts of these invasive species. To submit records, view interactive distribution maps or for more information visit <http://invasivespecies.biodiversityireland.ie> or contact Colette O' Flynn by e-mail: coflynn@biodiversityireland.ie or phone: +353 (0) 51 306240