

Policeman's Helmet

Impatiens glandulifera

Balsaminaceae, the impatiens family

Category: EDRR

Background:

- Found in moist areas and riparian zones
- Ornamental, considered extremely invasive in Britain
- Seeds explode from pod when touched, up to 20 feet



Description:

- Herbaceous annual, 6-10 feet tall
- Stems are hollow with purple or reddish tinge
- Leaves are opposite, oblong to egg-shaped, with serrated edges
- Flowers are white, pink or purple resembling an old-fashioned English policeman's helmet



Photos from Erickson Weed
Diagnostic Laboratory,
University of Idaho