

Impatiens glandulifera,

Policeman's Helmet

Though there are a number of different infestations of this plant in New York State, there is only one reported in the Capital-Mohawk Region. This species is related to Jewelweed and shares the unfortunate trait of exploding seed pods with native Jewelweed species, making eradication efforts time sensitive so it is not spread.

Population Status: Confirmed- Columbia Co.

Description: The explosive seed pods of this plant can launch seeds up to 20 feet which are easily spread by water due to the plants streamside habitat. The full height of the plant is three to eight feet tall and the leaves of this plant are large and oblong with serrated edges.

Control: This plant pulls up easily, making manual control for this plant a good option before the plant goes into seed in September.

Look-alikes: Orange Jewelweed (native) has similar flowers and habitat to Policeman's Helmet, though like the name suggests the flowers are a different color. The leaves show differences as well.

Flower Time and Description: This species is in flower from early August through September, when it usually begins fruiting. The flowers are hooded and white to pink with serrated edges.

