

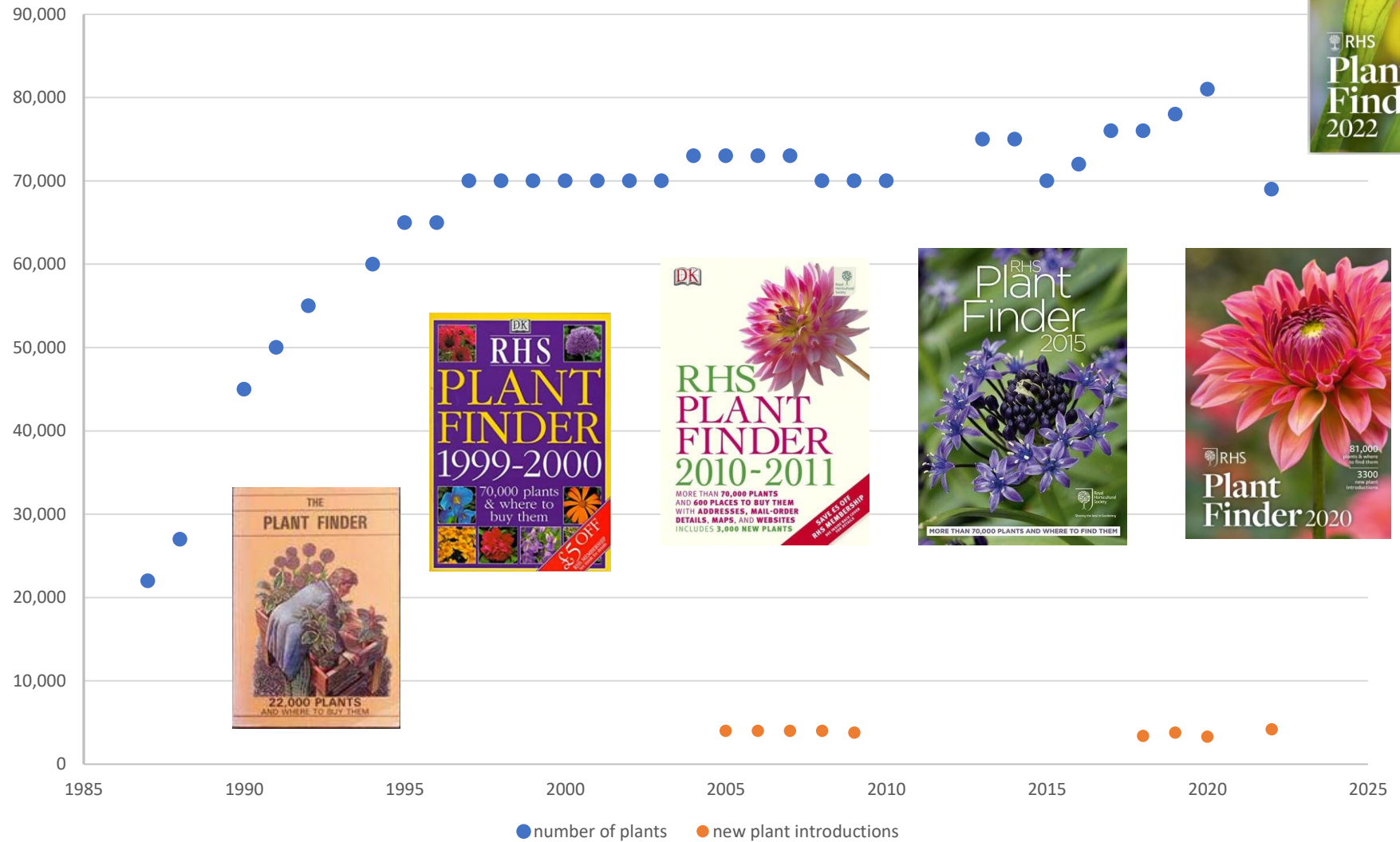


A citizen science project to identify  
potentially invasive garden plants

Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz (Coventry University)



# Ornamental plants are the main pathway for plant invasions





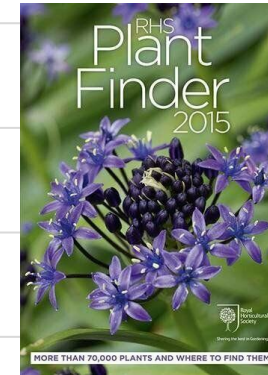
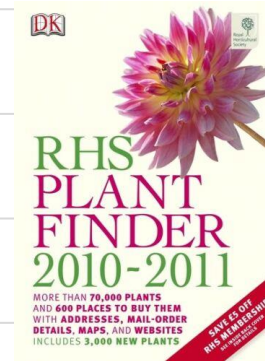
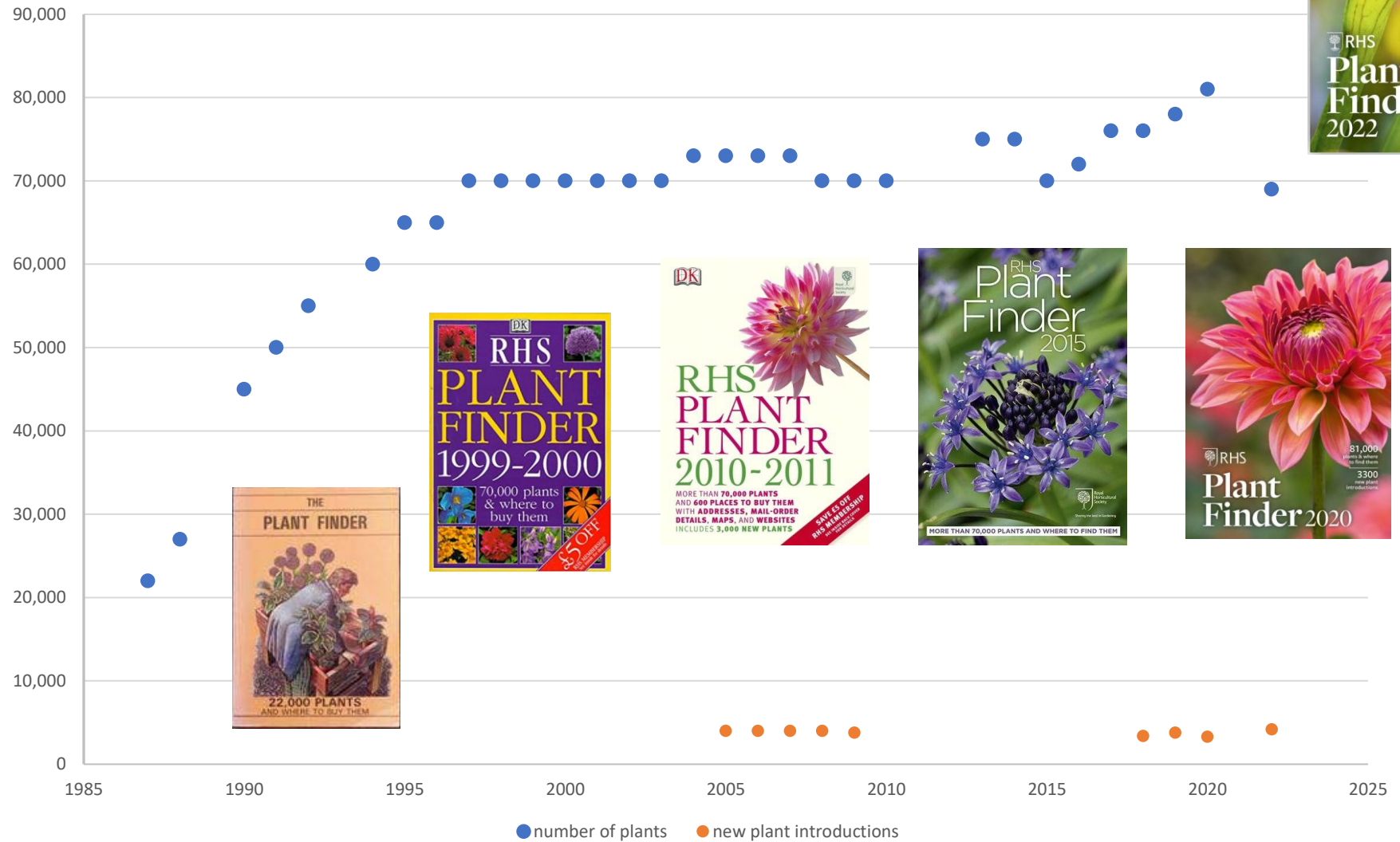
# Ornamental plants are the main pathway for plant invasions

## Flora of the British Isles:

1,530 native species

1,195 non-native species from horticulture

934 non-natives with different pathways

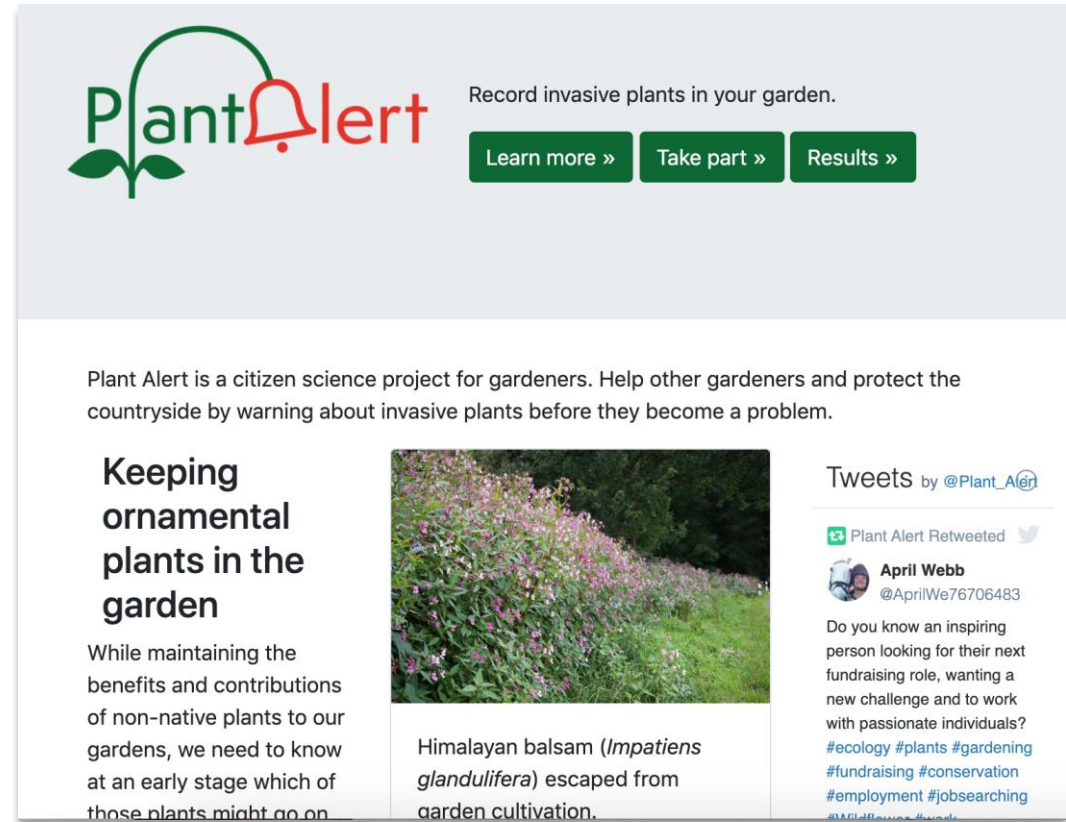


# Plant Alert

## How does it work?

Gardeners report ornamental plants that are spreading in their gardens and difficult to control

- web based submission system
- works also on mobile phones
- no need to download app
  
- Long term project



The screenshot shows the PlantAlert website. At the top left is the logo, which consists of the word "Plant" in green and "Alert" in red with a bell icon. To the right of the logo is the text "Record invasive plants in your garden." Below this are three green buttons: "Learn more >>", "Take part >>", and "Results >>".

Below the navigation bar is a paragraph: "Plant Alert is a citizen science project for gardeners. Help other gardeners and protect the countryside by warning about invasive plants before they become a problem."

There is a section titled "Keeping ornamental plants in the garden" with a sub-image of a field of pink flowers. Below the image is the text: "Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) escaped from garden cultivation."

On the right side, there is a "Tweets by @Plant\_Alert" section. It shows a tweet from April Webb (@AprilWe76706483) that says: "Do you know an inspiring person looking for their next fundraising role, wanting a new challenge and to work with passionate individuals? #ecology #plants #gardening #fundraising #conservation #employment #jobsearching #AprilAlert #work".

[www.plantalert.org](http://www.plantalert.org)







# Getting people to participate



The Observer Plants

## Killer plants: the new triffids invading the UK

We're being invaded by green and purple monsters which can grow through concrete and bum your skin. What can be done?



## On the alert for invasive plants



Helena Horton  
June 2020 • 1:43pm

## The Daily Telegraph

# DAILY EXPRESS

DAILY EXPRESS

## Spy the garden invaders and nip them in the bud

2 Jun 2020 +1 more By John Ingham Environment Editor • To take part go to [plantalert.org](http://plantalert.org)



GARDENERS are being urged to spot new invaders – and help uproot a problem before it starts.

The Plant Alert scheme wants to find the new Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsams before they spread – and damage the countryside.

Run by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland and Cover...



Japanese Knotweed was once an ornamental plant, but now it destroys homes | CREDIT: Alamy

Gardeners are being recruited to find the next Japanese Knotweed before it 'jumps the garden fence' in a new project spearheaded by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland

Pictures: F...

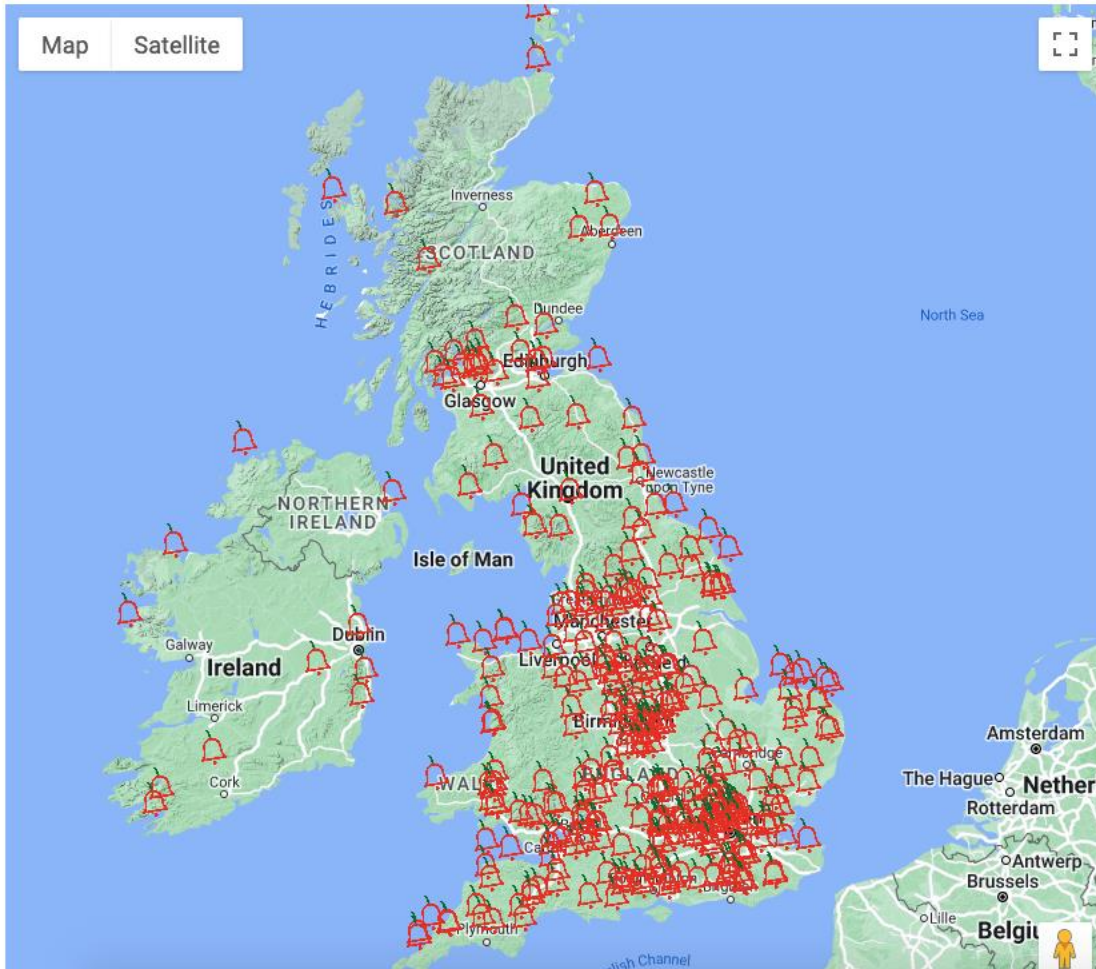




# Progress so far: number of records



Learn more Take part Results News



Click on the markers to view the plant records that have been sent in so far.

**1** 24/09/2022



*Anemone hupehensis x vitifolia* = *A. x hybrida*  
Japanese Anemone

- 229 species have been recorded
- 631 unique records have been sent



# What do we do with the data?

So far used for:

- Recommendation for risk assessments (*Leycesteria formosa*)
- Horizon scanning exercise for future invasives in Britain
- Updating a list of non-native species recommended for gardening

Future potential:

- Analysis of records over time
- Linking Plant Alert records to records outside gardens