

Scientific name	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i> invasive community
Common name	Giant-rhubarb invasive community
Community code	IN1B

Vegetation

This community brings together native grassland, scrub, woodland or heath communities that have been invaded by the non-native *Gunnera tinctoria*, whose broad, spreading leaves dominate the assemblage. Other constant vascular plant species are *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and *Hedera helix*. Beneath and between the rhubarb-like leaves are frequently found *Plantago lanceolata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Trifolium repens*, *Taraxacum officinale* agg., *Potentilla erecta*, *Holcus lanatus* or *Ranunculus repens*. In scrubby or woodland stands, there may be an overtopping canopy of *Ulex europaeus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens* or *Fraxinus excelsior*. The ground layer is usually species-poor, consisting of just *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Ecology

This community has currently only been recorded from the Connemara National Park area where it has been noted along disturbed roadsides and in quarries, but is known to be more widespread, occurring particularly in the hyper-oceanic climate of western Mayo, western Galway and southwest Kerry. Soils are typically wet, moderately fertile and circumneutral.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

This is a straightforward community that is unlikely to cause confusion.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	77
Transitional:	1
Total:	78

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	78
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	78

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	1

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

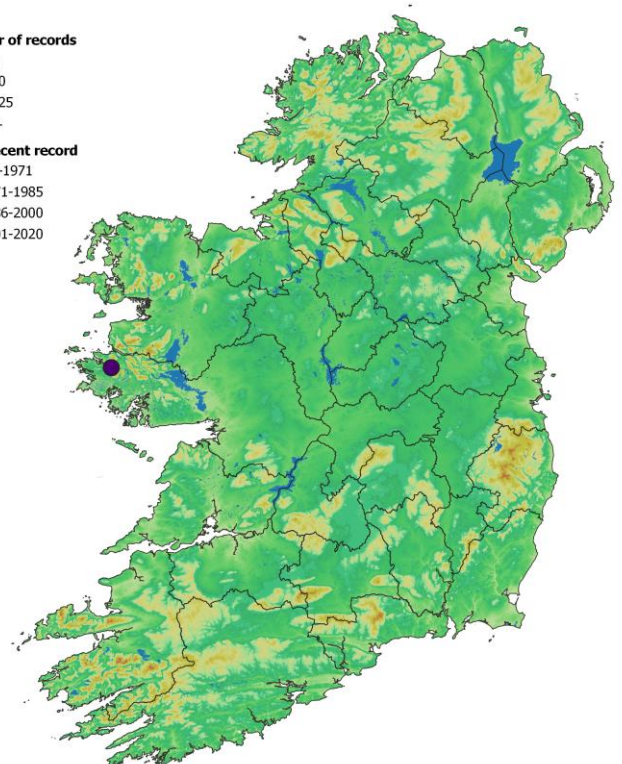
2001-2020:	1
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

- 1-3
- 4-10
- 11-25
- 26+

Most recent record

- pre-1971
- 1971-1985
- 1986-2000
- 2001-2020



Synopsis table (n = 65)

Species	Frequency		Cover		Species	Frequency		Cover	
	(from I-V)		min	(med) max		(from I-V)		min	(med) max
<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	V		5-(8)	9	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	II		3-(5)	7
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	V		3-(5)	8	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	II		3-(5)	7
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	IV		2-(5)	8	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	II		2-(5)	7
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	IV		2-(5)	9	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	II		3-(3)	5
<i>Hedera helix</i>	IV		3-(5)	7	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	II		2-(3)	5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	III		2-(5)	7	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	II		2-(5)	7
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	III		2-(5)	7	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	II		2-(5)	8
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	III		2-(3)	5	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	II		2-(3)	5
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	III		2-(3)	5	<i>Crocospia × crocosmiiflora</i>	II		2-(6)	8
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	III		2-(3)	5	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	II		2-(4)	5
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	III		3-(5)	7	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	II		2-(5)	5
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	III		2-(3)	5	<i>Poa pratensis/humilis</i>	II		2-(3)	7
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	III		2-(5)	7	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	II		2-(3)	5
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	II		3-(3)	5	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	II		2-(5)	8
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	II		2-(5)	5	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	II		2-(4)	5
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	II		2-(3)	5	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	I		2-(5)	7
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	II		2-(3)	5	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	I		2-(5)	7
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	II		2-(5)	8	<i>Pellia epiphylla</i>	I		3-(5)	7
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	II		2-(3)	7	<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	I		3-(5)	5
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	II		2-(5)	7	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I		2-(5)	7

Affinities

GHI: GS4 Wet grassland

ZM: Not classified

EUNIS: Not defined

NVC: MG9a *Holcus lanatus-Deschampsia cespitosa* grassland *Poa trivialis* sub-community (41.1%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.5 Reaction: 5.7 Wetness: 6.3 Fertility: 4.8 Salinity: 0.2

Conservation value

This is an invasive community, typically with very low conservation value. Species/9 m² = 17.9, n = 35.

Management

Gunnera tinctoria is listed in the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, making it an offence under Regulation 49 of that instrument to plant, disperse, allow or cause to grow this plant in the Republic of Ireland. Road works using material from infested quarries have facilitated its spread in Connemara. It can be controlled by foliar spraying or by cutting stalks and painting the stumps with herbicide.

Key references

Sheehy Skeffington, M., Hall, K. (2011) The ecology, distribution and invasiveness of *Gunnera* L. species in Connemara, western Ireland. *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 111B, 157-175.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: April 2021

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. Vegetation ascribable to IN1B *Gunnera tinctoria* invasive community, Tully, Galway
(A. Delaney/S.Barron, July 2010)

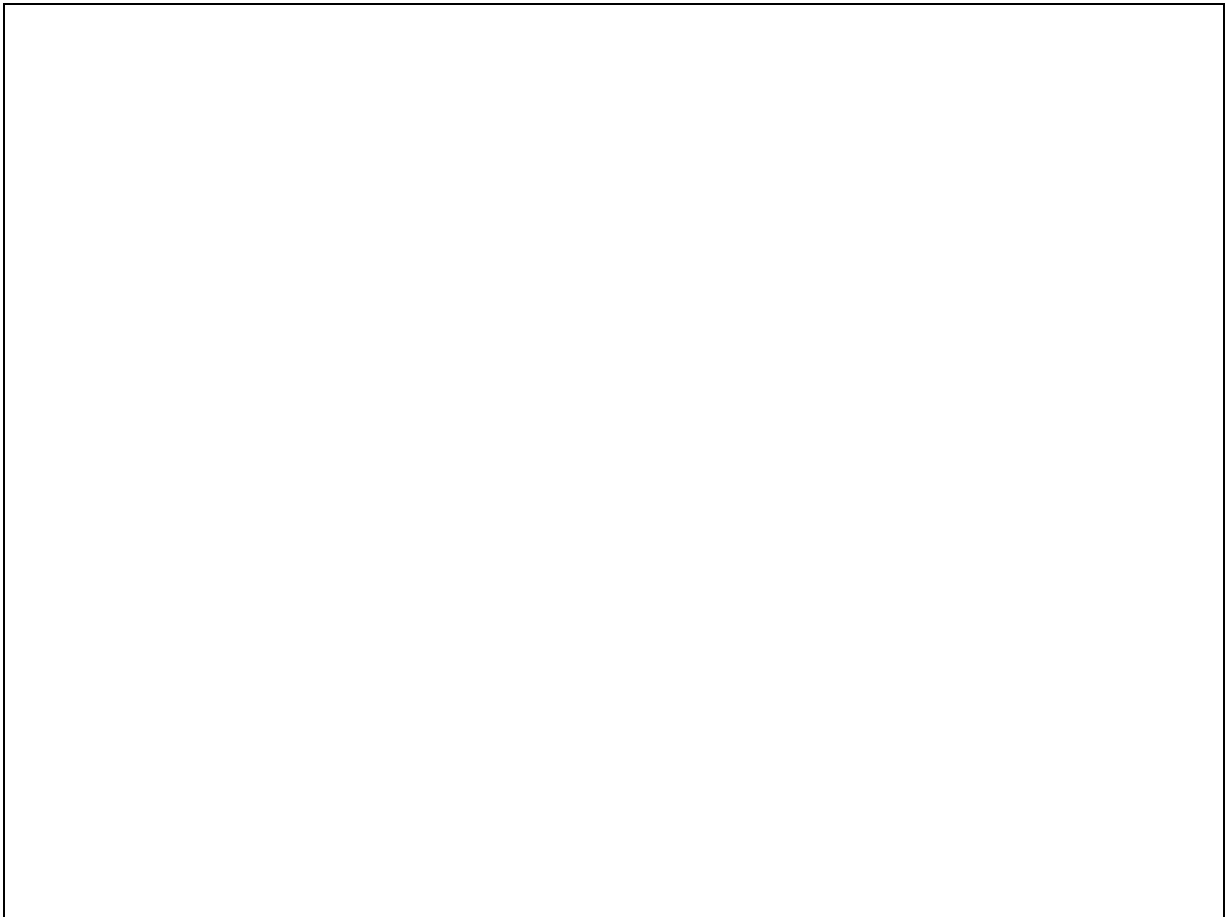


Photo required