



# Giant Hogweed

<b>Scientific Name:</b>	Heracleum mantegazzianum
<b>Weed Class:</b>	A
<b>Year Listed:</b>	1991
<b>Requirement:</b>	Eradication
<b>Other Names:</b>	Giant Cow Parsley
<b>Native To:</b>	Asia
<b>Toxicity:</b>	humans - skin contact

## Why is it a noxious weed?

Giant hogweed forms dense canopies, outcompeting native species. *It exudes a clear watery sap which sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet radiation, resulting in severe burns to the affected area that cause blistering and painful dermatitis.*

## How would I identify it?

### General Description

Giant hogweed is a perennial distinguished by its large size, capable of growing to a height of 15-20 feet. It has stout dark reddish-purple spotted stems and leaf stalks. Stalks and stem produce sturdy postulate bristles.

### Flower Description

Giant hogweed has broad, flat-topped flower clusters (umbels) of many small white flowers. Each flower cluster may grow to a diameter of 2.5 feet.

### Leaf Description

The compound leaves of giant hogweed may expand to five feet in breadth. Each leaflet has a deeply cut appearance.

### Stem Description

The stem and stalks are hollow and vary 2 to 4 inches in diameter.

### Fruit/Seed Description

The flowers produce large elliptic dry fruits marked with brown swollen resin canals.



## May Be Confused With:

Cow Parsnip, *Heracleum lanatum*, is a native plant in Washington and, except for its size, has a similar appearance to Giant Hogweed.

## Where does it grow?

Giant hogweed may colonize a wide variety of habitats but is most common along roadsides, other rights-of-way, vacant lots, streams and rivers.

## How Does it Reproduce?

Abundant seed production, a persistent root stalk, and reproduction from perennation buds on the root crown are cited as reasons for its capability to colonize rapidly.

# How do I control Giant Hogweed?

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to research, plan for, and use a combination of prevention and control methods specific to the problem weed. This approach is called **Integrated Weed Management (IWM)**, which uses mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical control methods that effectively treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water and other natural resources.

IWM Control Method	Effectiveness of Control Method			Timing and Notes **
	Good	Fair	Poor	
Digging	<b>G</b>			<b>Health hazard! Wear protective clothing. Toxic sap.</b> Be sure to get entire root to avoid regrowth.
Hand-Pulling		<b>F</b>		<b>Health hazard! Wear protective clothing. Toxic sap.</b> If growing in loose soil, seedlings can be pulled in early spring.
Mowing			<b>P</b>	<b>Do not cut with a weed whacker! Health hazard! Wear protective clothing. Toxic sap.</b> Not recommended. Plant will regrow after cutting. Mowing every two weeks during the growing season may starve the root after several years.
Tilling		<b>F</b>		Effective if cultivation is at least four inches deep.
Bark Mulch			<b>P</b>	Not effective as a sole control method. A deep layer of mulch may help reduce germination.
Black Plastic	<b>G</b>			Effective if black plastic or weed fabric is anchored down before stem elongates. Walk on fabric to crush growing hogweed. Repeat as needed.
Cover Crop			-	Not effective.
Native Plant Restoration			<b>P</b>	Not effective as a sole control method.
Managed Grazing		<b>F</b>		Intensive grazing by goats, sheep or pigs is effective when repeated for several years. Less palatable to cattle but may be effective.
Weed-Feeding Insects			-	None.
<b>Herbicides - (Examples*)</b>		<b><i>Timing is Important! For most effective control, apply herbicides before plants bloom.</i></b>		
Glyphosate	Roundup, Aqua-Neat		<b>F</b>	Foliar application in spring before plants get tall.
Triclopyr	Lilly Miller Brush Killer; Vastlan		<b>F</b>	Foliar application in spring before plants get tall.

\*Brand names are listed as examples only. Other products may contain the listed chemical. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. *Always read and follow the herbicide label.*

**\*\*Timing of control is critical!** Herbicide treatments are often not effective or appropriate when plants are in flower. If the weeds have produced seed, bag the plants and place in garbage, not compost. Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year. For more information on IWM, specific herbicides, and timing of control, please contact the Weed Board at:



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