

How To Identify Giant Hogweed

Flowers

Numerous small white flowers cluster into a flat topped "umbrella" up to 2½ feet across. Late June/July



Stem

Hollow ridged, up to 4 inches across, with purple blotches and coarse white hairs circling the stem, especially at the base of the leaf stalks



Height

8 to 14 feet tall when flowering

Leaves

Lobed, deeply cut, up to 5 feet across

PLANTS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR GIANT HOGWEED. THESE PLANTS MAY ALSO CAUSE BURNS.



Cow Parsnip

Shorter (2' - 4' tall) and more slender, stems ridged, with fine hairs (green or may have a purplish base, but not blotched), smaller, flat topped flower cluster



Angelica

Usually shorter (4 - 9' tall), stem smooth and waxy, green to purple (not blotchy), flower cluster softball size and shape, compound leaves made up of smaller leaflets



Queen Anne's Lace

Shorter (1' - 3' tall) with smaller flower clusters (up to 4" across), lacy fern-like leaves



Wild Parsnip

Shorter (up to 5' tall), smooth stems with grooves, flower cluster yellowish green. **DON'T TOUCH! CAN CAUSE SEVERE BURNS**



What to Do if You See Giant Hogweed:

Identify

- Use this brochure and see www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html to try to make a positive identification. Many plants look similar to giant hogweed.

Photograph

- Entire plant, stem, leaves, flower, seed. High resolution preferred. We'll need them to confirm identification.

Report

- E-mail DEC ghogweed@dec.ny.gov or call the Giant Hogweed Hotline: 1-845-256-3111.

Control

- If giant hogweed is confirmed, DEC will contact the landowner and may visit to assess the site and discuss management options, as resources allow.

Controlling Giant Hogweed

Controlling giant hogweed is challenging, but it can be eradicated after repeated efforts. DEC uses the most effective methods, including:

- Cutting through the plant root
- Using herbicide
- Removing flowers and seed heads

It is safest to begin in the growing season when the plants are small.

If you decide to attempt control yourself, call for advice 1-845-256-3111

Protect Yourself

Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight and perspiration, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours.

- Don't use a weed-whacker; sap may splatter as stems are cut.
- If the plant touches your skin, immediately wash the area with soap and water and protect from sunlight for 48 hours.

See more precautions at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72556.html



DEC workers conducting hogweed control