



Deep Roots
Greater Heights



Giant Hogweed



Young stages



Full bloom – Noxious stage

Maple Ridge Noxious Weeds Program

Giant Hogweed

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Designation: Provincially Noxious

History:

Introduced from Asia as an ornamental garden plant in Europe, United Kingdom, USA, and Canada. It has now naturalized in many of these places, especially along waterways.

How to Identify:

Size: Not best way to identify plant. Plants in final year of growth are very large, up to 5 m tall.

Flowers: White flowers in umbrella-shaped heads up to 1.5 m in diameter; may start blooming in June.

Leaves: Large leaves with coarse, jagged edges like a serrated knife, cut into three large segments with stiff hairs on underside of leaves.

Stem: Hollow, reddish-purple blotches, streaks, or spots, and stiff bristly hairs.

Location: Riparian areas, roadsides, agricultural land, disturbed areas.

Mistaken Identity: Often confused with native cow parsnip which is much smaller to 2.5 m tall. Cow parsnip leaves are more palmate without stiff underside hairs. Queen Anne's Lace and Palmate Coltsfoot are related but much smaller.

Danger / Impact

Very dangerous to human health. Sap causes extreme skin dermatitis in the presence of sunlight. Contact can lead to welts, rashes, blistering, and scarring. If sap gets into the eyes, it can lead to temporary or permanent blindness. Giant Hogweed is toxic at any growth stage.

Displaces native vegetation and reduces suitable habitat for wildlife.

Produces copious seeds (100,000 seeds per plant).

Shallow root can allow erosion on slopes.

Management:

Due to health risk, best removed by a professional. Where mechanical treatment is not feasible (e.g. inaccessible roots, very large number of plants) herbicide treatment by a certified professional may be necessary. If attempting removal yourself, cut the root crown 8 – 10 cm below soil with a sharp blade.

Chemical treatment is best completed using a glyphosate product. Aminopyralid (Milestone) is not a suitable treatment for mature Giant Hogweed.

Caution: Wear protective water proof clothing, gloves and safety goggles. Refer to WorkSafe BC Protocol at http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/bulletins/toxic_plants/assets/pdf/tp0602.pdf Beware of indirect exposure to sap from contaminated tools, gear, gloves and garbage bags. Use extreme caution when removing contaminated gear.

Bag plant and seed heads in double garbage bag to avoid on site spread and to avoid contact during handling/transport.

Timing: March to October (before first frost when plant goes dormant for winter).

Disposal: Do not compost. Do not put in green waste container. Dispose in landfill. Cut material can be left on site to decompose if there is no risk of anyone coming into contact with plant for three weeks AND there are no seeds. Seed heads must be cut off and disposed of in landfill regardless of treatment method (chemical or mechanical).

Follow-up: Monitor every two weeks until no re-growth or new seedlings appear (seed bank can last 10 years though germination is most likely for two-three years after treatment begins). Follow up for new germinates can be done mechanically by cultivating soil using a rake or blade or chemically using a glyphosate product.

Restoration and Planting Alternatives:

- Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)
- Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)
- Salmonberry 9 (*Rubus spectabilis*)
- And other native plants



Cow Parsnip – Native Species easily mistaken for Hogweed



Credit: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands



Distribution in DMR:

Small groups of plants found in only a few areas; a weed for rapid response and eradication.

Who Do you Call?

1) REPORT PROHIBITED WEEDS – Report-A-Weed: www.reportaweedbc.ca 1-888-WEEDSBC
2) DMR: 604-467-7363 – AND SEE: <http://www.mapleridge.ca/714/Invasive-Plant-Species>

Information and photos:

<http://www.bcinvases.ca/images/stories/plants/gianthogweed/gianthogweed01.jpg>

<http://www.iscmv.ca/species-profiles/giant-hogweed>

http://westvancouver.ca/sites/default/files/dwv/assets/home-building-property/docs/pets-wildlife-environment/Invasive-Plants/APPENDIX_A_-_JANUARY_28__2014_DRAFT.pdf