



Control Options for Giant Hogweed

General information

Control efforts for giant hogweed are best initiated before the plants flower. Do not compost buds or flowers. Regardless of which control option is chosen, sites must be monitored and control repeated for the weed to be eradicated. If soil is disturbed during control efforts, it is best to reseed the disturbed area with a desired species, to prevent further establishment of weeds. Encouraging grass growth through the use of applied fertilizers and/or rotational grazing will help prevent the reestablishment of weed species. **The sap of giant hogweed can cause severe blistering of the skin**, especially on sunny days. When working near the plant, always wear a long-sleeve shirt, pants and gloves. Thoroughly wash any skin exposed to the plant. It is best to conduct control work on cloudy days.



Manual/Mechanical Techniques



Giant hogweed can be controlled through hand digging. When digging, try to remove as much of the root as possible to prevent regrowth. **The sap of giant hogweed can cause severe blistering of the skin**, especially on sunny days. When working near the plant, always wear a long-sleeve shirt, pants and gloves. Thoroughly wash any skin exposed to the plant. It is best to conduct control work on cloudy days.

Chemical Recommendations

Giant hogweed can be controlled using specific herbicides. Giant hogweed should be sprayed in spring, as the flowering stalk begins to elongate. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. Do not spray when it is windy or raining or when rain is forecast. Do not mow sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

Plants should be treated individually (spot-sprayed), with an herbicide containing *glyphosate* (such as Round-up™ and Touchdown). Spray plants until they are just wet. Avoid spraying desired vegetation, as this herbicide can damage both broad-leaf plants and grasses. Maintaining the grass will assist in weed control efforts by shading any weed seeds in the soil, making it more difficult for seeds to germinate.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product.