



# Have you seen this invasive plant?

**Giant hogweed** grows up to 15 feet tall and has highly toxic sap.

***Learn more at [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)***



Giant hogweed is a *huge* plant. Its hollow stem is 2-4 inches thick. The white, umbrella-like, flat-topped flowerheads can reach 2 feet wide and the leaves range from 2-5 feet across (above and right).

Giant hogweed's compound leaves are deeply divided and the edges are jagged (below and left). Its stem has very distinctive purplish-red, bumpy blotches with stiff hairs (below). Please note that our native cow parsnip is closely related and has similar leaves and flowers. However, cow parsnip is usually smaller, reaching 4-6 feet when blooming. Its leaves are not as deeply divided and the stem is green, ridged and fuzzy with a slight purplish sheen.



Giant hogweed is not only very invasive, but its watery sap sensitizes skin to sunlight, which can result in severe and painful burning and scarring.

Do not handle this plant without gloves and protective clothing.



## Why is giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) a noxious weed?

- This federally listed Class A noxious weed is a public hazard because its toxic sap causes severe burning. It also colonizes streambanks, displacing important native species and causing erosion.

## Where do you find giant hogweed?

- Although a quarantined species - illegal to buy or sell in WA - giant hogweed is still deliberately grown as a garden ornamental.
- Escaped populations are found growing along streambanks, in vacant lots and along roadsides.

## What can you do?

- Learn to identify this Class A noxious weed.
- Please note that eradication of this invasive plant is required in Washington State. Always wear protective clothing and avoid getting the sap on your skin. Contact your county weed board or WSU extension to learn how to remove it safely.
- Report any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov).



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