

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Invasive to Maine

Giant Hogweed
Giant Cow Parsley

Upland
Fields, Roadsides, and River banks













Leaves



flickr user amortize



Look for dark green, compound leaves with 3 deeply lobed leaflets. The leaves can grow up to 1.5 m wide. Giant hogweed leaves have spotted leaf stalks.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 LOBED	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 ROSETTE	 COMPOUND	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



Wiki Commons user GerardM



Look for an extremely tall (2 to 5 m), leafy, green plant. Giant hogweed is a perennial (living three or more years) and usually is grows in moist, disturbed soils.

Stem



Wiki Commons user Liné1



Look for thick (3 to 8 cm in diameter), hollow, rigid stems. The stems are green with purple splotches. Look for coarse white hairs at the base of leaf stalks.

Seasonal Change



Wiki Commons user Jean-Pol GRANDMONT



Look for large, umbrella shaped clusters of small, white flowers in June and July. The flower clusters grow up to 0.75 m across.

Similar Species

Giant hogweed and cow parsnip have similar leaves and flowers. Giant hogweed is larger than cow parsnip, which typically grows to 1 m high. Also, giant hogweed stems have purple splotches and cow parsnip stems have purple stripes.

Danger! Do Not Touch!

Giant Hogweed is a phototoxic plant. Its sap can cause severe skin inflammations. When skin has been exposed to the sap and then sunlight it turns red and becomes itchy. Blisters form in the next 48 hours. The blisters cause black or purplish scars that can last several years.

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.



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