



# GIANT HOGWEED

*Heracleum mantegazzianum*  
Origin: Eurasia

## INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

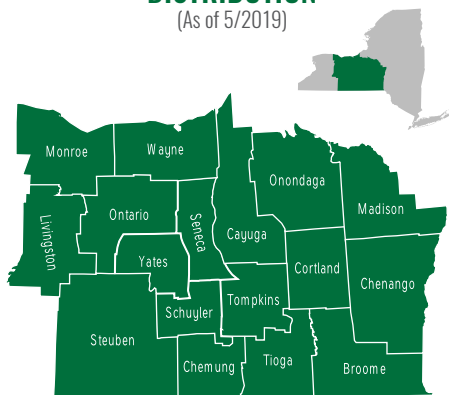
High

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical  
Physical  
Prevention

## DISTRIBUTION

(As of 5/2019)



[www.fingerlakesinvasives.org](http://www.fingerlakesinvasives.org)



Giant hogweed is a monocarpic (blooms only once) perennial herb that typically grows to 3-4 m in height. The stems are hollow, covered in bristles, and have dark reddish-purple blotches when flowering. The leaves are deeply lobed and serrated, with one to three leaflets, and may grow to 1.5 m in width. The flower can grow to about 80 cm in diameter and is composed of a broad, umbrella-shaped cluster of small white florets.

## HABITAT

The species is common along railroads, roadsides, rights-of-ways, vacant lots, streams, rivers, uncultivated or waste lands and agricultural areas.

## THREAT

Giant hogweed sap contains a substance that, when touched, causes skin to become sensitive to ultraviolet light. This can result in severe burns when the affected areas become exposed to sunlight, producing swelling and severe, painful blistering. Giant hogweed is also an aggressive competitor; because of its size and rapid growth, it out-competes native plant species and reduces the amount of suitable habitat available for wildlife. It dies back during the winter months, leaving bare ground that can lead to increases in soil erosion on riverbanks and steep slopes.

## MANAGEMENT

If seen, report this plant to the giant hogweed information line at 845-256-3111 or [ghogweed@dec.ny.gov](mailto:ghogweed@dec.ny.gov). Be sure to provide photos, location, and an estimated number of plants. Follow proper safety precautions when working around giant hogweed. Care should be taken to not allow skin to come into contact with any part of the plant. Wash skin and equipment after control. Cut the taproot 15 cm below ground level using a spade with a sharp blade, remove the cut part of the plant from the soil, and leave it to decompose. Apply systemic herbicides, such as glyphosate and triclopyr, through mid-October as long as giant hogweed plants are still green and not dying back. To prevent spread, flower/seed heads should be removed and placed in clear plastic bags and left to sit in the sun for at least one week prior to disposal. Start control early, it is easier to work safely around giant hogweed plants when they are small.

**REFERENCE** - USDA Forest Service. 2005. Giant Hogweed. Weed Of The Week. [https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive\\_plants/weeds/giant-hogweed.pdf](https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/giant-hogweed.pdf). June 12, 2017

Giant Hogweed Identification. New York State Department of Conservation. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html>.

