

Invasive Species Alert

Giant Hogweed

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- White flowers in an umbrella-shaped cluster up to 2.5 feet across
- Plant is 7 to 14 feet tall
- Stems are green with purple splotches and visible, coarse, white hairs
- Leaves are up to 5 feet wide, lobed and deeply incised

Habitat: Prefers open, slightly moist areas but can be found in a variety of habitats.

Native Range: Asia

Local Concern: Giant hogweed has the potential to harm humans. Its sap can cause a severe skin reaction known as photo-dermatitis or photo-sensitivity and damage to the eyes. The skin becomes sensitive to sunlight and may blister when exposed. If you think you may have come in contact with giant hogweed sap, wash the exposed area immediately, keep the exposed area out of the sunlight and seek medical care.

Look-alikes: Many other plants, including cow parsnip, wild parsnip, angelica and Queen Anne's lace are often misidentified as giant hogweed. Take the time to review similar plants before reporting this species.



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