

GIANT HOGWEED

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Description: Giant hogweed is a large perennial herb that flowers once then dies. The first year it is a single leaf, then grows into a larger rosette each year until the fourth or fifth year when it produces a 7-15 foot flower stalk. Leaves are 3-part compound, 1-4 feet wide, and deeply incised and pointed. Flowers are white and in multiple broad domed umbels. The flower stalks are hollow with coarse hairs and reddish purple splotching. Plant sap causes severe photo-dermatitis.



Native range: Eurasia (<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/hema.html>)

Ecological threat: This plant threatens river corridors and woodland edges. It has naturalized in many of the places where it was first introduced and does particularly well where the soil has been disturbed. It prefers moist soils and can quickly dominate ravines and stream banks.

Current North American Range: Giant hogweed is currently observed throughout Michigan, in northern Wisconsin and Indiana, northeastern Illinois, eastern Ohio, and into southern Ontario.



Current Midwest general distribution, including southern Ontario Not Known Isolated Locally Abundant Widespread

Early Detection and Rapid Response Can Help Stop the Spread!

GIANT HOGWEED, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: (<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/other/hogweed.html>)

Manual and Mechanical control

Mowing does not appear to be effective. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has used a ro-totiller and planted a lawn seed mix to return areas to a natural state.

Chemical control

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recommends utilizing both pre and post emergent herbicides, plus competitive vegetation. PDA applies Pre-M at 1-1.5 oz./1000 s.f. in late-March. When germination of hogweed seed was noticed, Transline was incorporated at .5 oz./1000 s.f. along with Pre-M at the 1.5 oz/1000 s.f. rate. This continued until other vegetation started to grow. Later in the season, they used Drive at 1 oz./A. Post-emergent applications of 91% Thinvert, 7% Garlon 3A and 2% Transline are initiated in mid-April. These herbicide applications continue until snowfall covers the hogweed.

Previously, glyphosate has been considered the most effective herbicide, but it should be used with caution around desirable plants. The herbicides 2,4-D, TBA, MCPA, and dicamba are not effective on GHW roots. Rodeo (glyphosate) has been recommended in wet areas. Herbicides should be applied to large plants with protective clothing.

Biological control

In Switzerland 12 phytophagous insect species found on native hogweed have been identified as possible candidates as biological control. Cattle and pigs are cited as possible biocontrol agents.

For more information on control and management of this species, please visit the following Web sites: www.usda.plants.gov, www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm, tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/comtrol.html, dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.htm, www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml, <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pope1.htm>

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