

# What to do if you find giant hogweed...

- Avoid all unnecessary contact with giant hogweed. People who must handle this plant should prevent skin contact by wearing protective clothing such as gloves, long sleeves, long pants, hats, and protective eyewear.
- Persons whose skin comes in contact with the sap should wash immediately with soap and cold water (hot water promotes absorption), avoid direct sunlight and consult their health-care provider.
- Keep children away from live or dead giant hogweed plants.
- Report suspect sites to Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately.

## Don't let giant hogweed spread in Oregon!

### Report suspect sites to

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Noxious Weed Control Program  
503-986-4621  
or call

**1-866-INVADER**



**Oregon Department of Agriculture**  
Plant Division  
Noxious Weed Control Program  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem OR 97301-2332



**Giant Hogweed**

*Heracleum  
mantegazzianum*

**TOXIC PLANT  
ALERT!**





## What is giant hogweed?

UGA1151039

Giant hogweed is a toxic and noxious weed in the carrot family. The plant is native to Eurasia and has been introduced to Europe, Canada, and the U.S. as an ornamental where it has naturalized in many places. It is one of the most invasive weeds in Europe.



## What does giant hogweed do?

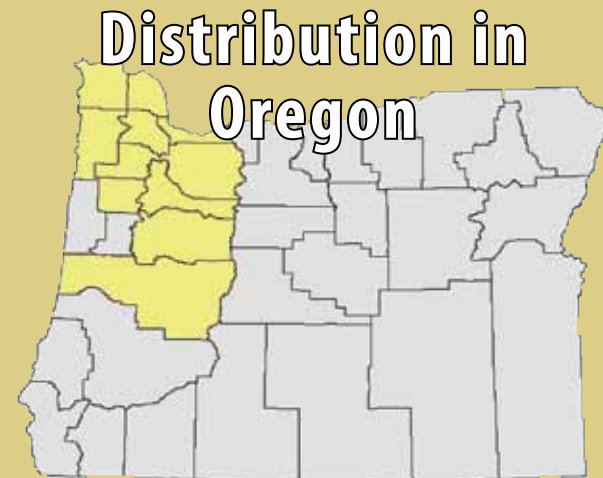
UGA1148090

This plant is a public health hazard. The plant exudes a clear watery sap that sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet light. Humans often develop severe burns to the effected areas resulting in blistering and painful dermatitis that can develop into dark scars. The plant is very invasive along streams and fields and will exclude native plants as well as impede access to riverbanks due to its large size.

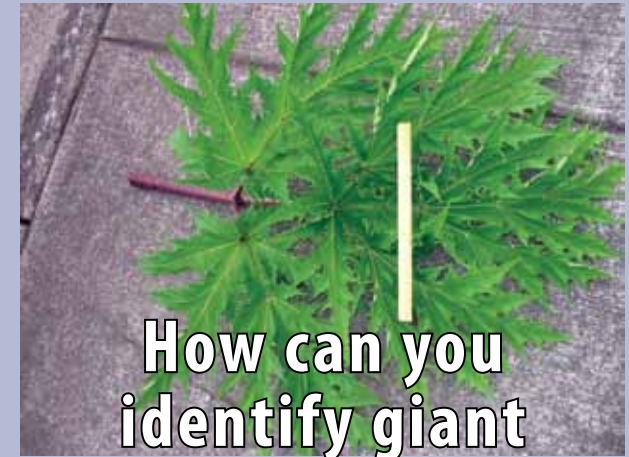


## How does giant hogweed spread?

This weed spreads by seed and transplantation by gardeners. Numerous papery, disc-like seeds scatter nearby the mother plant, increasing the infestation size rapidly. The seeds are very well suited to floating down streams and lodging on banks to start new infestations. A majority of the sites in Oregon were planted by gardeners who were unaware of its invasive and toxic qualities.



- Widely distributed
- Limited distribution
- Not known to occur



## How can you identify giant hogweed?

Giant hogweed can reach a mature height of 10-15 feet. The stem is often purple in color but can vary from entirely purple to mostly green with purple blotches. A key defining characteristic is the “blisterly” texture of the stem, with individual erect hairs emerging from each bump. Leaf size can be 2-5 feet in length. Flowers from mid-May through July, with numerous flowers clustered in an umbrella-shaped head at the top which is up to 2 ½ feet in diameter. It can easily be confused with native cow parsnip which has smaller flower heads that emerge at different levels along the plant and has no bumps and fine hairs on the stem.

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT>  
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Materials and photos are available at no cost. Please credit Oregon Department of Agriculture. Contact 503-986-4621 for more information.

