

# Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

**Description:** Giant Hogweed is a member of the parsley or carrot family (umbelliferae). It can grow to a height of 15 to 20 feet. Except for its size it closely resembles cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), a native plant of Washington. Giant Hogweed has hollow, reddish-purple stems, 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Hogweed can be annual, biennial, or a monocarpic perennial, sending up flowers from 1 to 15 years following germination. The sharply toothed, compound leaves may reach five feet in width. Giant Hogweed has large tuberous root stalks which form buds each year. The seeds are winged and can spread through wind and water. They can float for three days before becoming waterlogged and sinking. Seeds are viable for approximately 7 years.

**Impacts:** Giant Hogweed is a federally listed noxious weed. It is also listed as a "Class A noxious weed" on the state noxious weed control list and is mandated for control in Washington State. Hogweed forms dense canopies, out-competing native riparian species and resulting in increased soil erosion along streams.



The plant exudes a clear, watery sap which sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet radiation. This can result in severe burns to the affected areas when exposed to sunlight, causing blistering and painful dermatitis.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of all Giant Hogweed sites are found in urban areas, creating a human health hazard. In 1996, a Thurston County citizen reported being sensitive to Giant Hogweed and experienced scarring as a result of cutting it down and digging it up. Observations confirm that Giant Hogweed is most common on roadsides, alley-ways, old landscapes, backyards, and vacant lots.

**Control Options:** Thurston County's Integrated Pest Management emphasizes cultural, biological, and manual control methods to keep pests and vegetation problems low enough to prevent damage. The goal of Thurston County's pesticide use policy is to minimize the use of pesticides by utilizing and providing information about the most effective control options that are available and practical.

## ► Manual

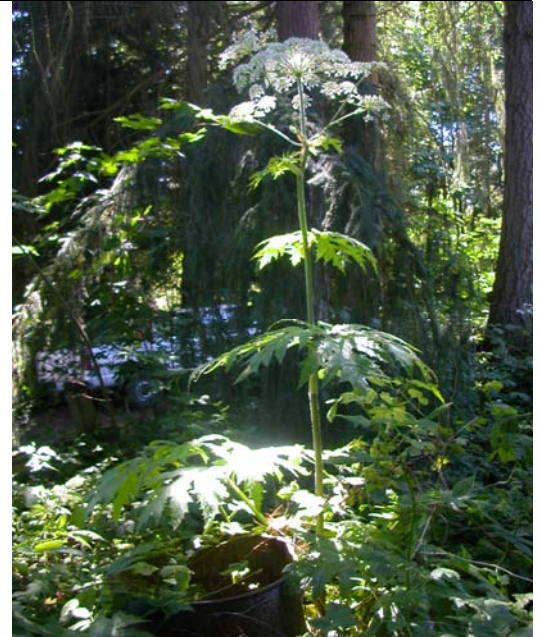
**Always wear protective clothing and avoid getting sap on your skin! Performing any manual control is risky. The sap that causes the burning is contained in all portions of the plant.** Small initial infestations can be pulled and the roots carefully removed. Disposal of the plant is currently paid for by the noxious weed agency at the Thurston County Transfer Stations.

## ► Cultural

Following control or removal, landscape barrier cloth or mulch is encouraged as well as the planting of desirable species in any disturbed areas.

## ► Biological

There are no known biological techniques available to control Giant Hogweed.



## ► Chemical

Spot spraying with an herbicide containing the active ingredient **glyphosate** (example: Roundup Pro®, Glyphos®, etc.) can be effective in controlling Giant Hogweed. Currently, products containing the active ingredient glyphosate are the only herbicides for the control of Giant Hogweed that are considered “low in hazard” by Thurston County’s pesticide review process for the potential for chemical mobility and persistence.

Glyphosate products can be used to treat individual plants or small patches, either by spot foliar application, or by stem injection (instructions from supplemental labeling in table below).



**Thurston County has observed that most ready-to-use, pre-mixed products do not contain sufficient active ingredients to be as effective as concentrated products that are then mixed with water to create a specific finished concentration. The following instructions are for products containing 41% glyphosate which will be mixed down to a specified dilution rate. Be sure to read your label carefully, and make adjustments to rates accordingly.**

### Foliar applications of **glyphosate (ROUNDUP PRO™)**:

- Using a spot application, spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves, enough to be wet but not dripping. Spot application means the herbicide is applied only to the Giant Hogweed plants, and not on the surrounding plants or soil. A 1% glyphosate solution (after mixing for use) is necessary to control Giant Hogweed. Follow label directions for mixing product to application strength.
- Glyphosate is non-selective, and will injure any plants that it comes in contact with, including grass.
- Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.

<b>RoundUp Pro® Spot/Foliar</b>	1%	To 1 gallon of water add 1.33oz. RoundUp Pro®, apply to foliage at or beyond bud stage.
<b>RoundUp Pro® Stem Injection</b>	5%	Inject one leaf cane per plant 12 inches above root crown with 6 mL of a 5% solution of this product.

Products containing the active ingredient imazapyr (Habitat® and Arsenal®), are also effective for controlling Giant Hogweed, and are considered “moderate in hazard” by Thurston County’s pesticide review process for the potential for chemical mobility and persistence and are a second choice for chemical control.

### Foliar applications of **imazapyr (Habitat®), (Arsenal®)**

- Licensed applicators are required to use this product.
- Spot applications with imazapyr products are effective.
- Imazapyr is non-selective, and will injure any plants that it comes in contact with, including grass.
- Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.
- Do not use on lawns, walks, driveways or similar areas where roots of desirable vegetation may extend and be exposed to potential injury.

**Timing:** Giant hogweed treatments should be performed during the bolt and bud stage or when the plant is actively growing.

**READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.** Obey all label precautions and safety measures. Always use personal protective equipment that includes coveralls, waterproof gloves, shoes plus socks, and protective eyewear. Use of brand names does not connote endorsement and is for reference only; other formulations of the same herbicides may be available under other names. Information provided is current as of the date of the fact sheet. Pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.

### References:

Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, [http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed\\_info/written\\_findings/CLASS%20A%20PDFs/Heracleum%20mantegazzianum%201998.pdf](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_info/written_findings/CLASS%20A%20PDFs/Heracleum%20mantegazzianum%201998.pdf)

2010 Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook, [http://uspest.org/pnw/weeds?33W\\_PROB.pdf](http://uspest.org/pnw/weeds?33W_PROB.pdf)

Invasive Plants of the United States: Identification, Biology and Control, <http://www.invasive.org/weedcd/species/4536.htm>



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