Giant Hogweed is a VERY LARGE, non-native, invasive plant that can cause painful burns, permanent scarring and even blindness. Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight and perspiration, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours.

- Don’t use a weed-whacker; sap may splatter as stems are cut.
- If the plant touches your skin, immediately wash the area with soap and water and protect from sunlight for 48 hours.

See more precautions at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72556.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72556.html)

Giant Hogweed was brought to North America from the Caucasus region of Eurasia as a garden plant in the early 1900s, but escaped cultivation. It spreads quickly, especially along roads and streams, taking over untended land, crowding out other plants and causing soil erosion. NYS law prohibits possession of giant hogweed with the intent to sell, import, purchase, transport, introduce or propagate.

Controlling Giant Hogweed

Controlling giant hogweed is challenging, but it can be eradicated after repeated efforts. DEC uses the most effective methods, including:

- Cutting through the plant root
- Using herbicide
- Removing flowers and seed heads

It is safest to begin in the growing season when the plants are small.

If you decide to attempt control yourself, call for advice 1-845-256-3111

GIANT HOGWEED SITES (2014 DATA)

See [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) for annual updates

Find Out How To
- Identify it
- Protect yourself
- Report it

We can help!
How To Identify Giant Hogweed

**Height**
8 to 14 feet tall when flowering

**Leaves**
Lobed, deeply cut, up to 5 feet across

**Flowers**
Numerous small white flowers cluster into a flat-topped "umbrella" up to 2½ feet across. Late June/July

**Stem**
Hollow, ridged, up to 4 inches across, with purple blotches and coarse white hairs circling the stem, especially at the base of the leaf stalks

PLANTS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR GIANT HOGWEED. THESE PLANTS MAY ALSO CAUSE BURNS.

- **Queen Anne’s Lace**
  - Shorter (1'-3' tall)
  - Smaller flower clusters (up to 4" across)
  - Lacy, fern-like leaves

- **Cow Parsnip**
  - Shorter (5' - 6' tall)
  - More slender; stem ridged, with fine hairs; green or may have a purplish hue, but not blotched; smaller, flat-topped flower cluster

- **Angelica**
  - Usually shorter (4'-9' tall)
  - Stem smooth and waxy, green to purple (not blotched); flower cluster softball-size and shape; compound leaves made up of smaller leaflets

- **Wild Parsnip**
  - Shorter (up to 5' tall)
  - Smooth stem with grooves; flower cluster yellowish-green

DON’T TOUCH! CAN CAUSE SEVERE BURNS

See additional similar plants at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html)