

## This Plant Can Burn!

Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight and perspiration, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours.



Day 5 Day 8 Month 5

Skin burned and scarred by giant hogweed sap

### Protect Yourself

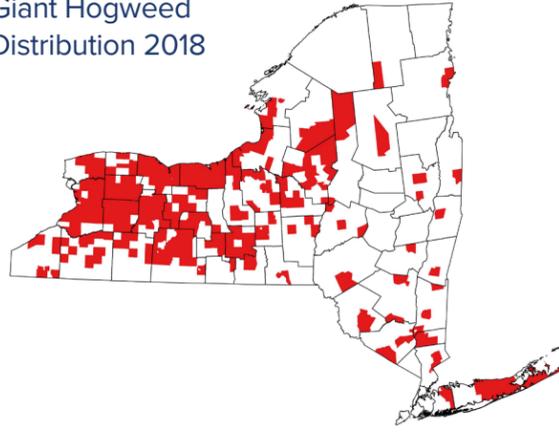
- If the plant touches your skin, immediately wash the area with soap and water and protect from sunlight for 48 hours.
- Wear eye protection and waterproof gloves, long sleeves, pants and boots when working near giant hogweed.
- Avoid using a weed-whacker or brush cutter that will cause sap to splatter.

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



## Where is Giant Hogweed?

Giant Hogweed  
Distribution 2018



To report giant hogweed or for more information, call **845-256-3111** email [ghogweed@dec.ny.gov](mailto:ghogweed@dec.ny.gov) or visit [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html)

NYS law prohibits possession of giant hogweed with the intent to sell, import, purchase, transport, introduce or propagate.



Department of Environmental Conservation



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Division of Lands and Forests  
Giant Hogweed Program  
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**STOP THE INVASION**  
PROTECT NEW YORK FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

## BEWARE GIANT HOGWEED!



## Don't Touch This Plant!

### Find Out How To

Identify it • Protect yourself • Report it



Department of Environmental Conservation

## What is Giant Hogweed?

Giant hogweed is a VERY LARGE, invasive plant that can cause painful burns and permanent scarring.

A native of Eurasia, it was brought to North America as a garden plant in the early 1900s. It escaped cultivation and spread quickly, especially along roads and streams.

Giant hogweed starts growing earlier and faster than native plants, outcompeting them for resources. It isn't a good soil stabilizer, so erosion is an issue in areas with infestations.



Giant hogweed spreads easily along streams



Bare soil under hogweed plants can lead to erosion

## How Can You Help?

### Learn to Identify Giant Hogweed

- Use this brochure or visit [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html) for identification tips.

### Report

- Take pictures of the entire plant, as well as the stem, leaves, flower and/or seed.
- Note the location and number of plants.
- Email [ghogweed@dec.ny.gov](mailto:ghogweed@dec.ny.gov) or call DEC's Giant Hogweed Information Line at **845-256-3111**

If giant hogweed is confirmed, the landowner will be contacted to discuss management options. Lands and Forests staff will conduct free site visits and control activities as resources allow.

### Control

Controlling giant hogweed is challenging, but it can be eradicated with repeated efforts. If you decide to attempt control yourself, call for advice. It is safest to start early in the spring, when plants are small.

#### Effective methods include:

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



DEC Lands and Forests staff conducting hogweed control

## Giant Hogweed Life Cycle



# How To Identify Giant Hogweed

## Flowers

- Numerous small white flowers cluster into a flat-topped “umbrella” up to 2½ feet across
- Late June/July

## Height

- 8 to 14 feet tall when flowering

## Leaves

- Lobed, deeply cut, up to 5 feet across

## 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



**Cow Parsnip**

Shorter (5' - 8' tall) and more slender; stem ridged, with fine hairs; green or may have a purplish hue, but not blotched; smaller, flat-topped flower cluster. May cause burns.



**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. May cause burns.



**Queen Anne's Lace**

Shorter (1'- 3' tall) with smaller flower clusters (up to 4" across); lacy, fern-like leaves.



**Wild Parsnip**

Shorter (up to 5' tall); green, hairless stem with grooves; flower cluster yellowish-green. **DON'T TOUCH! CAN CAUSE SEVERE BURNS.**

