

Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Description: Giant hogweed is a member of the parsley or carrot family (umbelliferae). Giant hogweed grows 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 stems, 2 to 4 inches in diameter, and reddish-purple. Hogweed can be annual, biennial, perennial, or monocarpic (sending up flowers from 1 to 15 years following germination). The compound leaves of giant hogweed may reach five feet in width. Giant hogweed has large tuberous root stalks which form buds each year. The seeds of giant hogweed are winged and can spread through wind and water. Seeds 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. Giant hogweed is 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.

Control Options:

► Manual Techniques

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 Control

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

► Biological Techniques

There are no known biological techniques available to control giant hogweed.

► Chemical Techniques

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.

Only products with concentrated formulations of *glyphosate* will be effective. Pre-mixed products do not contain enough *glyphosate* to be effective, use products with at least 40% *glyphosate* .

Foliar applications of ROUNDUP PRO™ (a 41% *glyphosate* product): Giant hogweed can be controlled by using no less than 1% *glyphosate*

Rates, at 4 lb. per gallon A.I.:	1 Percent
To 1 gallon of water add	1.33 oz. ROUNDUP PRO™

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

- Spot applications with *glyphosate* products are effective. Spot application means the herbicide is applied only to the plants and not on the surrounding plants or soil. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves enough to be wet but not dripping.
- Remove domestic livestock before application and wait 14 days after spot application before grazing livestock or harvesting.
- Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval of 12 hours. Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.

Hollow stem injection of *glyphosate* (ROUNDUP PRO Concentrate™):

- Inject one leaf cane per plant 12 inches above root crown with 5 mL of a 5% solution of this product.

Timing:

- Control of giant hogweed needs to be performed during the 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.



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