

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Family name: Parsley family (Apiaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

General: Biennial or perennial reaching 8 to 15 feet tall.

Leaves: Alternate, mature leaves are deeply or pinnately lobed with pointed teeth. Short dense hairs underneath.

Flowers: White, compound, flat-topped, umbrella-like clusters. Each cluster can be up 2½ feet across. Flowers appear in mid-May through July.

Stems: Hollow, 2-4 inches thick often with red-purple splotches and ridges. Stem may be hairy.

Fruit: Dry, flat, oval-shaped with narrow, brown resin canals. Ripening July through August.

Look-alikes: Native common cow parsnip (*H. maximum*) is large but is still smaller than giant hogweed. Purple stem angelica (*A. atropurpurea*) and spotted water hemlock (*C. maculata*) are natives that are smaller than giant hogweed. Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) are non-natives that are smaller than giant hogweed.



Habitat: Roadsides, forest edges, open woods, stream edges, fields, yards. Giant hogweed prefers rich, moist soil with part-shade conditions.

Threats to native habitats: Giant hogweed can form large, dense stands that displace native plants.

NJ Status: Giant hogweed is uncommon. This plant is *moderately threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated. Isolated occurrences are appearing in natural areas.

Commercial Availability: None.

DO NOT TOUCH! Federally designated noxious weed. *The sap can cause severe skin reactions including light sensitivity, itchiness, blistering, and inflammation. The sap may also cause red blotches and scarring that may persist for several years. Exposure to sap may also cause temporary or permanent blindness.*

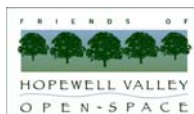


Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org/>

Giant Hogweed: An Attractive but Dangerous Noxious Weed. New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specieId=113>

Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 867.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohv.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

