

Giant hogweed is a VERY LARGE, non-native, invasive plant that can cause painful burns, permanent scarring and even blindness.

Giant hogweed spreads easily and quickly, coming up each year and taking over untended ground near houses, in vacant lots and along roads and streams. It can be challenging to eradicate. Giant hogweed plants also crowd out other plants and cause soil erosion.

Take these steps:

- Use the key inside this brochure to identify it
- Protect yourself and your family by avoiding contact with it
- If you discover giant hogweed, contact DEC to report it

Example of a skin reaction to giant hogweed sap



Bob Kleinberg

Giant Hogweed Life Cycle



What to Do if You See Giant Hogweed

First: Use the key inside this brochure to try to make a positive identification. Many plants look similar to giant hogweed.

Second: Take photos (entire plant, stem, leaves, flower, seed). High resolution preferred. We'll need them to confirm identification.

Third: E-mail DEC: ghogweed@gw.dec.state.ny.us or call the Giant Hogweed Hotline: 1-845-256-3111.

Fourth: If it is giant hogweed and it is on your property, DEC will contact you and may visit to assess the site and discuss management options, as resources allow.

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 is native to the Caucasus region of Eurasia. Introduced to North America as a garden plant in the early 1900s, it escaped cultivation. It is classified as a federal "noxious weed" and is unlawful to propagate, sell or transport. Be careful not to spread the plant.

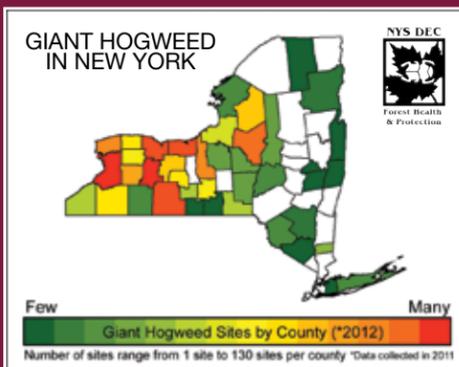
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Giant Hogweed Hotline:
ghogweed@gw.dec.state.ny.us
1-845-256-3111

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests
Forest Health and Protection
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561



Protect Yourself

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

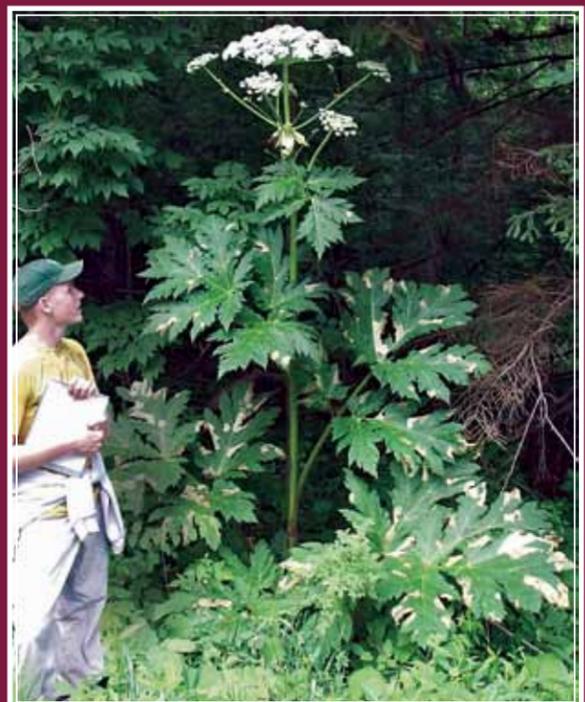
See more precautions at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72556.html



DEC workers conducting hogweed control



BEWARE
GIANT HOGWEED!



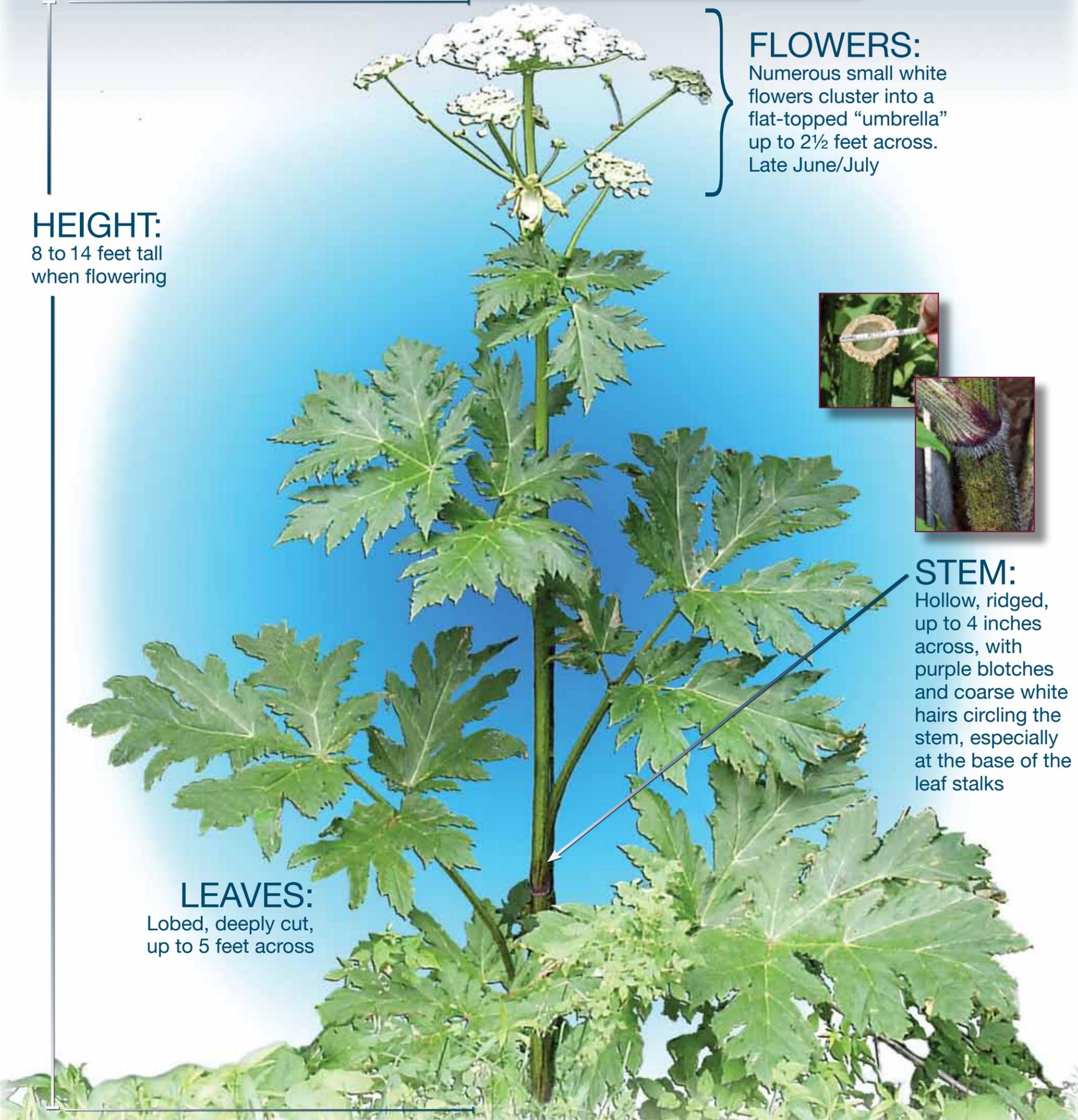
Don't Touch This Plant!

Find Out How To:

- Identify It
- Protect Yourself
- Get Rid of It

WE CAN HELP

HOW TO IDENTIFY GIANT HOGWEED



HEIGHT:
8 to 14 feet tall
when flowering

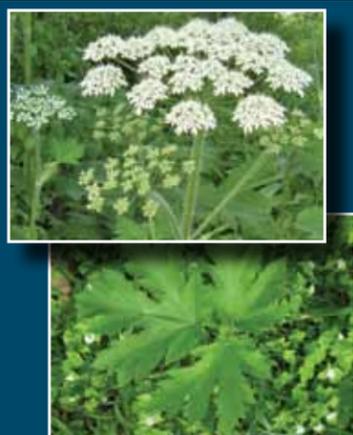
FLOWERS:
Numerous small white
flowers cluster into a
flat-topped "umbrella"
up to 2½ feet across.
Late June/July



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

LEAVES:
Lobed, deeply cut,
up to 5 feet across

SIMILAR PLANTS COMMONLY MISTAKEN FOR GIANT HOGWEED THESE PLANTS MAY ALSO CAUSE BURNS



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



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



Queen Anne's Lace - Shorter with smaller flower clusters (up to 4" across), lacy, fern-like leaves



Wild Parsnip - Shorter (up to 5' tall), smooth stem with grooves, flower cluster yellowish-green

See additional similar plants at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html