

WANTED

Giant Hogweed



Seedlings

- Have a rosette pattern
- Germinate from early Spring through the growing season



Juvenile Plants

- Sprout from over-wintering roots each year for 2-5 years until the plant is ready to bolt and flower
- Are large, compound, sharply and unevenly lobed



Giant Hogweed

- Is a public health hazard and is listed as a Federally Prohibited Noxious Weed
- Causes severe irritation when its sap comes in contact with skin or eyes that later are exposed to the sun
- Is found most frequently in rich moist soils along roadsides, stream banks and waste grounds
- Can grow up to 15 feet in height
- Dies back in autumn, but dried stems with long rays of flower heads shooting out from them remain, taking on a skeletal-like appearance



Flowers

- Occur from mid-June to mid-July
- Form from clusters of small white flowers at the end of long rays
- Produce dozens of seeds
- May measure up to 2 feet across



Stems

- Are hollow and range in size from 2-4 inches in diameter
- Have a coarse hairy texture with reddish-purple blotches
- Have larger coarse white hairs found at the base of the leaf stalk
- Contain clear sap that causes painful, burning blisters in exposed skin



Skin Irritation

- Is caused by chemicals found in the plant's sap when contacted skin is later exposed to sunlight
- May take the form of large, painful, burning blisters
- May also take the form of red blotches that later develop into purplish or blackened scars
- Usually will appear within a few days of exposure to the plant's sap

DON'T touch or handle plants with bare hands

DON'T allow children to play in Giant Hogweed

DON'T transplant Giant Hogweed, plant its seeds or give away plants or seeds

DO wash immediately with soap and water if hogweed sap contacts your skin

DO report locations of any Giant Hogweed plants

TO REPORT SIGHTINGS CALL (860) 486-6448

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg