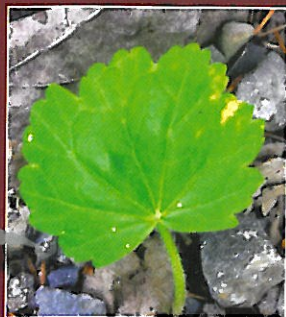


Giant Hogweed Life Cycle

SEEDLING

(spring/summer) Seeds germinate throughout the growing season. Look for purple blotches and hairs on the stem.



ROSETTE OF LEAVES

(spring/summer) Leaf clusters sprout from overwintering roots for several years until plant flowers.



FLOWERING PLANTS

(mid-summer) After several years of growth, the plant flowers.



SEEDS

(late summer): Average flowering plant produces 20,000 seeds.



DEAD STEMS

(late fall/winter): After producing seeds that germinate in following years, the plant dies, leaving stems and seed heads standing.



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

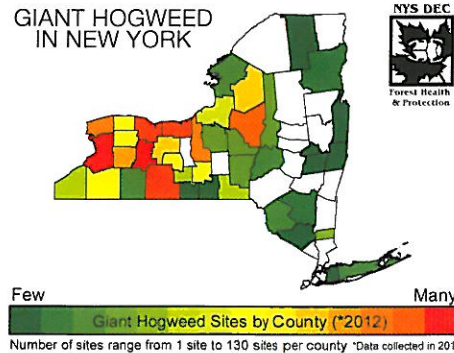
1-845-256-3111

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

GIANT HOGWEED IN NEW YORK



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

BEWARE GIANT HOGWEED!



Don't Touch This Plant!

Find Out How To:

- Identify It
- Protect Yourself
- Get Rid of It

WE CAN HELP

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

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

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