



# Giant Hogweed

healthful

## What is Giant Hogweed?

- It looks similar to cow parsnip, but poses a serious threat.
- It can grow 4.5 to 6 metres (15 to 20 feet) in height.
- Its leaves are nearly 1.5 metres (5 feet) wide and feature hairs on their underside.
- Its hollow stem has dark reddish-purple splotches and coarse white hair.
- It can produce thousands of seeds.

## Why is it dangerous?

- Giant Hogweed's danger lies in its clear and watery sap. If the sap from a broken stem or crushed leaf, root, flower or seed comes into contact with skin, it can cause severe burns, blistering and painful sores when the skin is exposed to sunlight.
- If even a small amount of sap comes into contact with the eyes, it can lead to temporary or permanent blindness.

## What to do if you are exposed to Giant Hogweed

- Wash affected areas immediately.
- Keep the affected area out of the sun.
- Seek medical advice.

To view photos of Giant Hogweed, visit [www.eohu.ca](http://www.eohu.ca).  
Click on the "Environment" tab and  
then on the "Giant Hogweed" button listed under "Topics".

## What to do if you find Giant Hogweed on your property

To remove Giant Hogweed from your property, you must take special precautions:

- Wear protective clothing, including gloves, long sleeves, pants, and eye protection, rain coat and boots.
- Avoid getting sap on your skin.
- Immediately remove any flower heads to prevent seed growth and dispersal.
- Sever the plant roots 8 – 12 cm below the soil surface.
- Dispose of all plant parts in double-bagged garbage bag, seal the bag and **DO NOT COMPOST or put it in your yard waste.**
- Return to plant site periodically to remove any new plant growth.
- Wash the clothes you wore to remove the plant afterwards (avoid contact with soiled clothing or tools).

## What to do if you find Giant Hogweed in a public place or park

- Inform your municipality.

### Questions?

613-933-1375 or  
1 800 267-7120  
Ask for the Health Line.