

Giant hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Species Biology and Phenology:

Habitat: Giant hogweed is found along roads, forest edges, waterways, and in vacant or disturbed areas. It prefers semi-shade conditions and rich, moist soils.

Reproductive Strategy: Giant hogweed sprouts in early spring and flowers early July. This perennial plant dies back after flowering, leaving tall dead stalks. It forms perenating buds which lie dormant through winter until the next growing season. It reproduces by seed dispersal only, not vegetatively. Each flower head contains approximately 1500 seeds, which can remain viable for up to ten years.

Dispersal: Seeds are dispersed primarily by wind, water, and human and animal activity. It is commonly spread along river banks, where it causes erosion and is swept downstream.

Species Phenology and Treatment Options:

Phenology	Full leaf out											
	Flowering						Seed ripening					
Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Manual				Hand pulling and digging								
				Cutting and mowing								
Chemical						Foliar herbicide						

Treatment Methods:

Category	Method	Method Description	Considerations
MANUAL	Manual treatment can be moderately to highly effective for giant hogweed Giant hogweed leaves out very early compared to most native vegetation, thus making it easy to detect. It is beneficial to manually remove this plant before it begins flowering later in the growing season		
	Hand Pulling/Digging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull entire plant by the base of the stem or dig roots with a shovel • Be sure to remove entire root system • Dry or burn all vegetation (most importantly roots) or collect vegetation and dispose of in a landfill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective on small-medium sized plants and small infestations • Most effective if done when soil is wet • Use thick gloves and long pants and shirts when pulling to avoid injury from phytophototoxic sap
	Mowing/cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut at least 1 time before seeds appear (until July) • Repeat for 3-5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting/mowing can help slow the spread of giant hogweed will not eradicate it
CHEMICAL	Active ingredients commonly used in herbicides: Glyphosate or triclopyr		
	Foliar Application	<i>If foliar spraying only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foliar spray later in the summer (June-mid July) • Spray leaf surfaces with low volume backpack sprayer, or high volume mist blower 	<i>Low Volume Backpack Sprayer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides (active ingredient): glyphosate or triclopyr with surfactant • Used to giant hogweed plants and minimize drift to desirable species
			<i>High Volume Mist Blower</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides (active ingredient): glyphosate or triclopyr with surfactant • Used for very larger and dense infestations that have little desirable, native vegetation that will be damaged by drift