



GIANT HOGWEED

BOTANICAL NAME: *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? It is a perennial that is distinguished by a stout, dark reddish-purple stem and spotted leaf stalks. The leaves of giant hogweed may expand to 5 feet across. The flower head may be as large as two and one half feet across. The tuberous rootstalks form perennating buds on the crown and along the root stalk. Giant hogweed is a member of the parsley or carrot family and may grow 15 to 20 feet tall. Reproduction is through seed and buds formed on the crown and tuberous root stalk.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? It was introduced from Europe as a garden curiosity. Most commonly found along roadsides, vacant lots, streams and rivers. Where it grows along streams, it quickly out competes native plants and results in an increase in soil erosion along the stream banks.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Giant hogweed takes several years from germination to produce the first flowering stalk. This plant dies after it's first flowering seed set. The flower head is a broad flat-topped cluster composed of many small white florets.



Plant stem

Giant Hogweed stem - Photo courtesy of Oregon Dept. of AG

CAUTION: *This plant exudes a clear watery sap which sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet radiation. This can result in severe burns to the affected areas resulting in severe blistering and painful dermatitis.*

CONTROL: Giant Hogweed is on Idaho's EDRR (Early Detection & Rapid Response) list, which is the highest priority of all noxious weeds. We must not allow EDRR species to become established in Idaho. If you find it please report it as soon as possible to Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control so we can positively identify it, map its location, and assist you in eradicating it.

Want more information? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290

kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or www.kcweeds.com

Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.