

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **GIANT HOGWEED**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

FAMILY: *Apiaceae*

ORIGIN: Eurasia

US INTRODUCTION: Introduced in 1917 for ornamental use

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Water
- Wind
- Animals
- Ornamental garden planting
- Contaminated soil

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Biennial, robust and herbaceous, spreads by seed
- Flowers white, clustered atop 50-150 stalks, forming umbrella-shaped cluster to 2.5 feet wide
- Seed heads distributed flat, 1/4 inches wide seeds
- Leaves large, to 6 feet wide, once compound, leaf stalks spotted with hairs like the stem; leaflets coarsely toothed, deeply cut and pointed at tip
- Stems 8-14 feet high, 1-2 inches thick stems have purple blotches and coarse hairs
- Threatens riparian corridors, fens, seeps, moist savannas, and wet prairies, but may grow in a variety of sunny, moist habitats

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

American cow parsnip (*H. maximum*, *H. lanatum*), rays 15-30, rarely taller than 6 feet.

Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*) inflorescence hemispherical (like a ball), leaves twice compound, and stems up to 6 feet tall with purplish coloring, not blotches.

Glade mallow (*Napaea dioica*) leaves are palmately lobed.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

New York Department of Environmental Conservation.
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html>

Michigan Department of Agriculture Brochure.
http://mipn.org/MDA_Hogweed_Brochure.pdf

USDA Plants Database.
<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=hema17>

Giant Hogweed and Look-a-likes Guide.
<http://extension.psu.edu/weeds/documents/hogweed.pdf>



W. Vanderplouge

Leaf



D. Eagan

Purple blotching and hairs on stem

Caution!
Do not handle this species with bare hands and skin, sap is photo-reactive and may cause severe blistering when exposed to sunlight.



Flower head



Mature plant



W.Vanderplouge

Giant hogweed leaf



D. Maurer

American cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)



D. Eagan

Great angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*)



D. Eagan

Glade mallow leaf



D. Eagan

Glade mallow