

Giant Hogweed

Giant hogweed is a toxic invasive plant that is sometimes confused with look-alikes. Giant hogweed sap reacts with sunlight and sweat and may cause blisters, burns, scarring, or blindness.



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Stems are hairy with purple blotches.

Leaves are large (5 feet), lobed, compound, and deeply incised.

White flowers bloom June or July, and can reach 2.5 feet.



T. English, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Mature plants can reach 15 - 20 feet.



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Giant Hogweed Look-Alikes

Cow Parsnip

Reaches 5 - 8 feet tall. Leaves are compound, 2 - 2.5 feet, and less incised than giant hogweed. Flower clusters are white, flat-topped, and 1 foot. Stems are ridged with tiny hairs.



Wild Parsnip



Cow Parsnip and Wild Parsnip sap is toxic and can produce skin rashes or blisters.

Wild Lettuce



If you see giant hogweed, do not touch the plant.
Contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
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