Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
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Heracleum mantegazzianum

WA – Class A Noxious Weed, Prohibited Weed List

OR – Class A Noxious Weed

Giant Hogweed

Giant Cow Parsley

Family: Apiaceae/Umbelliferae

Origins: Native to the Caucasus Mountains in southwestern Asia. It was first introduced to the U.S. in 1917 as an ornamental plant.

Range: Found east of the Mississippi River and western Washington and Oregon.

Habitat: Commonly found along roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, streams, rivers, gardens, and open forest clearings.

Impact: Giant Hogweed is considered a public health hazard. The sap is toxic to humans and some animals, causing severe skin burns and light sensitivity. Giant Hogweed outcompetes native riparian species by shading them with its dense canopy and increases soil erosion along the stream banks where it occurs. It reproduces by seed and possibly through perennating buds formed on the crown and tuberous rootstalk. Each plant can produce 100,000 seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for up to 7 years.

Description: Giant Hogweed is a perennial that takes three or more years to produce the first flowering stalk. It can grow up to 20 feet tall and usually dies after setting seed. Plants growing in higher altitudes respond by accelerating the life cycle. The compound leaves can reach five feet wide, are deeply lobed, and sharply toothed. The stem and stalks are hollow and vary from 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Stems and leaf stalks have distinctive purplish-red, bumpy blotches with stiff hairs. The flower heads are broad flat-topped umbels composed of many small white florets. Umbles can grow up to 2.5 feet in diameter. Flowers bloom from May to July.

Common Look-Alikes: Cow Parsnip.

** Giant Hogweed is toxic to humans and some animals. The plant exudes a clear watery sap containing furanocoumarins that sensitize human skin to ultraviolet radiation. The chemical is at its highest concentration in the leaves and roots in the early part of the growing season. Contact with the furanocoumarins, which are also present in the roots, flowers, and seeds, can result in severe burns to the affected areas that can turn into blistering and painful dermatitis. Scars and light sensitivity may be permanent.*

Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Plants may be dug out carefully; remove as much of the root system as possible to prevent re-sprouting. Mowing is only effective for a short time, and it may stimulate budding on the perennating rootstalk. Cut and bag the flower heads to reduce the spread of seeds. **Always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment when handling Giant Hogweed.*
Cultural	Do not introduce this plant to your garden and maintain healthy, desirable vegetation.
Biological	Cattle, pigs, and sheep show no ill effects from the toxicity of the plant. Long-term grazing of 7^{+} years has proven to be effective. In a pasture setting, where the plant suffers from trampling and soil compaction, flowering is delayed by one or two years.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	**Timing:** Apply in spring during the bolting stage. **Remarks:** Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective; it may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Imazapic (Plateau)	**Timing:** Apply in spring during the bolting stage. **Remarks:** For best results, add an adjuvant; note crop rotations found on the label; do not apply near water.
Triclopyr +2,4-D (Crossbow, Crossroad, Brush Killer)	**Timing:** Apply to actively growing plants. **Remarks:** Observe all grazing and harvesting restrictions; avoid drift to sensitive crops; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

Herbicide Control: Stem Injection Treatment

Glyphosate Concentrate (AquaNeat, Rodeo, Roundup Pro Concentrate)	**Timing:** Apply in spring during the bolting stage. **Remarks:** Do not exceed the maximum label rate per acre; inject the cane 12 inches above root crown; Glyphosate is nonselective; it may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.