

Giant Hogweed

Comparison and Identification

Giant hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is a robust biennial or short-lived perennial of the carrot family. It is often confused with other common weeds and native plants in the carrot family. For example, cow parsnip, poison hemlock and wild carrot. The primary characteristics that distinguish giant hogweed are plant height, stem color, stem texture and leaf size. Giant hogweed can reach a mature height of 10-15 feet. The stem is often dark purple in color, but can vary from entirely purple to mostly green with purple blotches. A key-defining characteristic is the texture of the stem, which is rough and bumpy in appearance. The stem is covered with blistering pimples with individual hairs emerging from each bump. Leaf size of the mature plant can also help distinguish this plant; leaves are up to 5 feet in length. Other notable characteristics, flowers are large white compound umbels up to 2 feet across, compound leaves are deeply divided into lobed-toothed leaflets, and stems are hollow 2-4 inches in diameter.

Giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Cow parsnip <i>Heracleum maximum</i>	Poison hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i>
Plant 	Plant 	Plant 
Maximum height 10 – 15 feet	Maximum height 8 feet	Maximum height 3 -10 feet
Stem 	Stem 	Stem 
Thick hollow stalks are purplish, each purple spot surrounds a raised blister-based hair	Thick, ridged stem with fine white fuzzy hairs appears to have a purple haze	Smooth, hairless purple-spotted hollow stems



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 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">leaf</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">leaf</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">leaf</p>
<p>Compound leaves are deeply divided into lobed-toothed leaflet</p>	<p>Divided into 3 segments, leaflets coarsely toothed, broad wing at the base of the leaf stalk</p>	<p>Each leaf is made up of several pairs of leaflets that sprout from opposite sides of a main leaf stalk. Finely divided and lacy</p>

 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">flowers</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">flowers</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; position: absolute; top: 5px; left: 5px;">flowers</p>
<p>Up to 2 feet in diameter</p>	<p>Has 6 - 10 inch flat clusters</p>	<p>Grows with 2 - 3 inch flat clusters</p>



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