

## Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

**Family name:** Parsley (Apiaceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0 – Absent or very rare. It is *moderately threatening* to natural plant communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

### General description:

- Large biennial or perennial reaching 8'-15' tall
- Stems rough-hairy and hollow, 2"-4" wide often with red-purple splotches and ridges
- Dried stems persist into winter
- Federal noxious weed
- **DO NOT TOUCH!** Exposure to sap can cause severe skin reactions: light sensitivity, itchiness, blistering, inflammation, red blotches, scarring, and temporary or permanent blindness



### Leaves:

- Alternate, sharply and coarsely lobed with pointed teeth
- Up to 5' wide
- Seedling leaves are less deeply lobed
- Short, dense hairs below and at base of petiole (leaf stem)



### Flowers:

- Flat-topped, umbrella-like clusters of about 50 small, white flowers
- Each cluster can be up 2.5' wide
- Blooms June-July

### Fruit:

- Dry, flat, 2.5" oval
- Narrow, brown resin canals
- Ripening in August



Stem hairy with fringe at base of the leaf stem



### Habitat:

- Roadsides, forest edges, open woods, stream edges, meadows, gardens
- Prefers rich, moist soil, part-shade
- Once planted as an ornamental

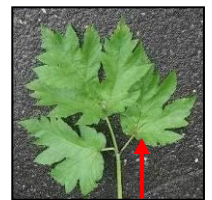
**Commercial availability:** Not found, historically available

### Look-alikes:

There are many native and non-native species in the carrot family, all bloom in flat-topped umbels. The following are most easily confused with giant hogweed because of their large size.

#### Cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)

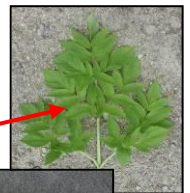
- Common, large (though still smaller than giant hogweed), native perennial of moist soils, including meadows, forests, and riparian areas, 4'-9' tall
- Stem deeply ridged, green or purplish, covered in soft hairs
- Leaves compound, with 3 coarsely toothed leaflets, 2'-2.5' wide
- Flat-topped cluster 6"-12" wide with 10-30 small white flowers
- **WARNING:** Can cause skin reactions similar to but less severe than hogweed



3 leaflets

#### Purple-stem angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*)

- Native perennial of moist soils, 4'-8' Stem smooth, waxy, purple
- Leaves doubly compound, with dozens of leaflets, 1'-2' wide



#### Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

- Non-native perennial of moist soils, 4'-9' tall
- Stem smooth, purple blotches
- Leaves glossy, fern-like, 1'-2' wide
- Numerous, white clusters, 1"-3" wide

Fern-like leaf



#### Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

- Non-native perennial of fields and roadsides, 2'-5' tall
- Stem hairy, grooved
- Leaves yellow-green, 5-11 leaflets
- Yellow clusters, 4"-8" wide

5-11 leaflets and yellow flowers

