

Cow Parsnip is often mistaken for Giant Hogweed (see below). Cow Parsnip is more common in Lanark County and is native to Ontario, although, Cow Parsnip may still cause minor burns.

Giant Hogweed

Cow Parsnip



Top: Giant Hogweed reaches 8' to 20' tall, the flower head is slightly curved.
Middle: The stem has purple streaks/blotches and stiff hairs.
Bottom: The leaves are shiny, large (up to 1m) and very serrated with coarse edges.



Top: Cow Parsnip reaches 3' to 7' and has a flat flower head.
Middle: The stem is generally green, grooved with soft hairs.
Bottom: The leaves are not shiny and are less serrated/lobed.

EDD MapS Ontario
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



Report a sighting:

www.eddmaps.org/ontario/

For more information visit:

www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/best-management-practices

Contact Us:

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**LANARK
COUNTY**

99 Christie Lake Road
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GIANT HOGWEED

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Best Management Practices



CAUTION: Giant Hogweed sap can cause skin irritation, which makes the skin prone to 2nd degree burns when exposed to the sun.

**LANARK
COUNTY**

Giant Hogweed

Regardless of the management option, always wear protective clothing and eye protection when controlling Wild Parsnip

Giant Hogweed is a tall, monocarpic perennial (flowers once before dying) which spreads by seed. Giant Hogweed grows in locations that are undisturbed with lots of light, as well as on forest edges with little shade.



Giant Hogweed infestation sectioned off.

IMPACTS



Giant Hogweed out-competes and shades out native plants



Health risk for people and animals



Reduced forage crop quality



Mow



Dig



Tarp



Spray



Till

Infested areas should be mowed as soon as the umbel starts to flower, but **BEFORE** seeds set to prevent seed production. Mowing after seed production can increase Giant Hogweed populations.

For **SMALL** infestations, remove Giant Hogweed plants using a shovel. The best times for removal are after rain when the ground is soft, or during times of drought (when the taproot shrinks).

Cover the ground with a tarp to smother new growth following other control methods like mowing or digging. Leave tarp for at least one full growing season and replant following tarping to rehabilitate the area.

Target the Giant Hogweed plants with a glyphosate herbicide in the spring. Treating Giant Hogweed in full flower may not prevent seed production.

In agricultural areas, seasonal tilling of the soil will prevent Giant Hogweed from infesting agricultural fields.

DISPOSAL

After removal, **DO NOT** burn. Leave the stems at the removal site to completely dry out for at least one week.

Note: If seeded, **DO NOT** compost. Place the weeds in a black garbage bag and dispose with household garbage.



Giant Hogweed infestation.



Giant Hogweed seeds.

RESTORATION

After control, replant the area with native plant species to prevent re-infestation.

MONITORING

Monitoring should be repeated throughout the growing season to ensure plants are not re-sprouting.