

Giant Hogweed

BULLETIN

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is an invasive plant that poses a serious threat to human health and natural ecosystems. It has been observed in Port Coquitlam, and the City wants to ensure it does not become a widespread community concern.

Giant Hogweed can reach an impressive height of 15 feet when flowering. The hollow stems are 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Leaves are deeply lobed and toothed. The large blossom consists of numerous white flowers clustered in an umbrella-shaped head that is more than 2 feet across. Most plant parts are covered in stiff white hairs that are filled with sap.

The sap of the Giant Hogweed stem and stem hairs causes *phytophotodermatitis*, a serious skin inflammation activated by exposure to the sun. Symptoms typically consist of painful blisters that form within 48 hours of exposure and pigmented scars that can last up to 6 years.



photo provided by the City of Burnaby

**Contact with Giant Hogweed could result in severe burns and temporary blindness.
See reverse for medical and disposal information.**

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If you are exposed to Giant Hogweed sap:

- wash affected areas immediately
- keep affected area out of the sun
- seek medical advice for burns

To remove one of these plants from your own property:

- **wear protective clothing**, including neoprene gloves, long sleeves, pants, and eye protection
- **immediately remove any flower heads** to prevent seed growth and dispersal
- **sever the plant roots** 8-12cm below the soil surface
- **dispose of all plant parts** in double-bagged garbage bags
- **DO NOT place in your curbside green waste bin**; use the black garbage bin only
- **DO NOT COMPOST**
- return to plant site periodically to **remove any new plant growth**



DO NOT dispose of Giant Hogweed in your greenwaste bin. This could result in its spread to Lower Mainland composting facilities.

If you see this plant anywhere in Port Coquitlam, please contact Parks & Recreation Services at 604.927.5480 with the plant location information.