

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



W
ALIEN INVADERS

GIANT HOGWEED

Heracleum mantegazzianum

BASIC ID: This plant stores up energy in its roots until it is ready to bolt at which time it may reach up to 14' in height. It has hollow, ridged stems that are 2–4" in diameter with dark reddish-purple blotches, and large compound leaves that can grow up to 5' wide. Flowers are white umbels that measure up to 2.5' in diameter.

FACTS: Native to central Eurasia, it was introduced in the early 20th century as an ornamental garden plant. It grows along streams, rivers, fields, forests, yards and roadsides. It prefers open sites with abundant light and moist soil, but will grow in partial shade. Each plant can produce 20,000 seeds, forming a dense canopy that shades out and displaces native species.

CAUTION: The sap, combined with sun exposure, can cause severe skin and eye irritation, painful blistering, permanent scarring or blindness.

MANAGEMENT

- Before leaves are large, cut the taproot at least 6" below ground.
- Remove flower heads/seeds.
- Apply herbicide to basal rosette leaves.
- Cut or mow throughout season.

UNLESS there is a flower or if the plants are larger than your mower.

CAUTION: WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EYE GEAR.

Photo: Terry English, USDA, APHIS
PPQ, Bugwood.org
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