

Giant Hogweed

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Habitat: Terrestrial.
Family name: Apiaceae



Can grows to over 5 metres tall

Description:

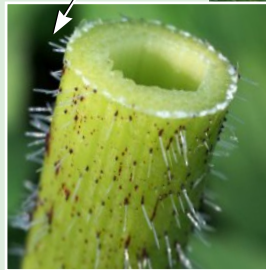
Stout, bright green stem that is frequently spotted with dark red and hollow red-spotted leaf stalks that produce sturdy bristles. The hollow stems vary from 3–8 cm



in diameter, occasionally up to 10 cm. Each dark red spot on the stem surrounds a hair, and large, coarse white hairs occur at the base of the leaf stalk. The plant has deeply incised compound leaves which can grow up to 1.7 m width



Highly Toxic hairs



up-to 10 cm

Stems are covered with hairs containing toxic sap, causing skin UV sensitivity burning and blistering

Leaves are deeply lobed, sharply pointed, and up to 1.5m



Large white flower heads emerge in the final year seeding in the autumn months



Giant hogweed is a perennial plant and dies back in the winter months.



Reproduction:

Tuberous root-stalks form perennating buds each year.

Giant hogweed flowers in its final year from late spring to mid summer, with numerous white flowers clustered in an umbrella-shaped head growing up to 80 cm in diameter across its flat top.

The plant produces 1,500 to 100,000 flattened, 1 cm long, oval dry seeds that have a broadly rounded base and broad marginal ridges.



The plants are monocarpic, dying after they have set seed. Plants in earlier stages of growth die down in

late autumn or early winter. Tall dead stems may mark its locations during winter.