

Eradication of the Giant Hogweed

Before beginning any treatment it is important to :

1. Contact the municipality to validate the identification and status of the species
2. Locate all colonies (seedlings, immature plants and mature plants)
3. Protect yourself adequately (waterproof clothing covering all skin, protect the entire face and wear glasses, then remove clothing by turning them inside out in order to avoid contact with the sap)

Manuel uprooting

Immature plant :

✓Tear, cut and mow sprouts. Using a shovel to remove as much of the roots as possible.

Mature plant :

✓Cut the stems 15cm from the ground and remove 20cm of the roots using a shovel or a knife.

✓For a small colony, you can place a geotextile on the roots to prevent regrowth

✓Cutting the head of the flower before the maturity of the seeds will prevent the plant from spreading. It is important to cut the base of the flower stem and not just the head of the flower

How to remove it ?

How to prevent the appearance of the plant ?

Sowing the land is the best way to protect invasion of this giant hogweed.

How do we dispose of it?

The head of the flower, stems and roots that are cut need to be managed properly. You should not compost the plant in whole or in parts. You must dry the plants. Avoid dispersal of the seeds by placing them in an airtight bag exposed to the sun for a minimum of one week. Throw the bag in the garbage or bring larger quantities to the local landfill.



Entrusting a team of professionals avoids risk to your health and the environment while providing proper disposal of the giant hogweed.

For further information...

Consult the MDDELCC website (ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux Changements Climatiques):

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca>

Along with informative videos concerning the prevention and control of the IES:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RC4qLKF6ofg>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvr7o_kNk-0

Anyone who has observed the presence of IAS in the territory of the municipality is asked to report its presence to the Municipality and the MDDELCC via the *Sentinelle tool* at the address below:

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/especes-exotiques-envahissantes/sentinelle.htm>

Informative pamphlet realised by the students of the Masters in Environment at the University of Sherbrooke for the Municipality of Bolton-Est

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INVASIVE EXOTIC SPECIES

Giant Hogweed



Often perceived as weeds by amateur gardeners, the giant hogweed plant is not like the others. It is extremely dangerous.

Identify intruders !



These steps need to be repeated year after year, until the total disappearance of the plant

INVASIVE EXOTIC SPECIES

Invasive exotic plant species are species introduced outside their natural range whose spread or implantation represents a threat to the environment, human health and the economy.

Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

This plant is native to the Caucasus mountains in Southwest Asia. It was introduced at the beginning of the century for horticultural purposes in London and identified for the first time in Québec in 1990.

Giant hogweed is present in most regions of Québec and is expanding.

It establishes in cool, moist environments and colonizes in disturbed areas: river banks, rivers, ditches, along railways, roads, agricultural fields and vacant lots.

Adverse effects of the IES on the environment

- ✓Decreases the diversity of vegetation
- ✓Causes displacement and extinction of native plants
- ✓Degrades and erodes soil

Giant Hogweed

How to spot it ?

Do not get confused with the cow parsnip, a native species!

At first glance cow parsnip looks identical to a giant hogweed, However, a closer inspection is needed to notice the differences between the two plants, thus be able to distinguish them.

Giant hogweed	Cow parsnip
Can measure 5 meters in height	Can measure 3 meters in height
The stem has several red spots	The stem has few red spots , they are sometimes absent
Some small white coarse hairs are present mainly at the base of the stem	Soft white hair covers the entire stem
The leaf has lots of cuts and contains 1 to 3 leaflets	The leaf contains 3 to 5 leaflets
Umbrella shaped head is composed of 50 to 150 flowers	Main flower head is composed of 15 to 50 flowers
The lower side of the leaf (that is to say the side facing the ground) is smooth to slightly scaly and has small stiff white hairs	On the underside of the leaf, many white, flexible bristles are present

The seeds of the giant hogweed can survive up to five years in soil, multiply and spread very quickly by wind and water. Its foliage is dense and produces shade that prevents germination and development of other plants.

Direct impact of giant hogweed on human health

- ✓You must absolutely protect yourself if are to be in contact with this plant
- ✓When in contact with its colourless and odourless sap, combined with sunlight, the plant causes severe skin damage
- ✓The lesions are called *phytophotodermatitis* and resemble burns and may persist for several months



Skin lesions caused by giant hogweed



Leaves



Stems



Flower head