



## **GIANT HOGWEED**

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

The federal and Ohio noxious weed lists includes Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), making it unlawful to propagate, sell or transport this weed. Hogweed is on these lists due to its ability to crowd out our native plants and because of its potential human health hazard.

Giant hogweed has a biennial life cycle and is a member of the Carrot or Parsley family. It lives for several years and dies once it has flowers and bears fruit. Hogweed can grow to a height of 15 feet, has white flowers and incised leaves. Its hollow stem has white hairs with purple blotches and can measure between 2 and 4 inches in diameter.

Hogweed flowers in late June to early July. The fruit (seeds) of the hogweed are dry, flat and oval, containing one seed. On plant can produce 20,000 seeds, allowing it to spread quickly. Seed dispersal is known to be through human activity.

**Extreme caution should be exercised around this plant.** Contact with the plant sap to skin can cause a reaction known as phyto-photodermatitis. In the presence of sunlight, this can cause a severe rash and/or blistering of the skin.

Additional information can be found on The Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-35>.