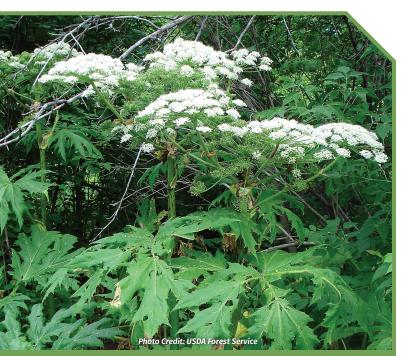
# IS IT GIANT HOGWEED OR COW PARSNIP?

**Giant hogweed** is a large, showy invasive plant of high public interest due to the potential for skin irritation upon contact with the plant's sap. However, giant hogweed is often mistaken for a native look-alike.

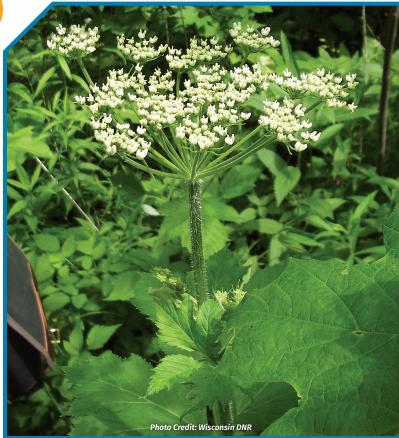
From late May through early July, giant hogweed is often confused with native **cow parsnip**, which is a pollinator-friendly plant abundant throughout Wisconsin. It is very similar to giant hogweed in appearance and habitat preference.



**Giant Hogweed** 

### **MYTH BUSTER!**

Contrary to popular belief, giant hogweed only causes severe skin irritation, blistering and burning upon contact with the plant's sap. While contact with external parts of either giant hogweed or cow parsnip may cause minor irritation, giant hogweed must be broken open to cause a harsh reaction.



**Cow Parsnip** 



**Giant Hogweed** 

#### INVASIVE.SPECIES@WISCONSIN.GOV • DNR.WI.GOV

## Giant hogweed reaches 8-15 feet high! Cow parsnip is only 3-8 feet high.

#### GIANT HOGWEED (Heracleum mantegazzianum)



- HEIGHT: 8 to 15 feet high.
- **STEM:** 2 to 4 inches in diameter with purple spots/blotches and stiff hairs/bristles.
- LEAF SIZE: Can be up to 3 to 4 feet wide.
- FLOWERS: Umbel-shaped flower (a slightly rounded white flower cluster in which the individual flower stalks [rays] arise from the same point to form the complete flower head) can be 1 to 3 feet across.
- **LEAVES:** Compound, lobed leaves (single leaves with lobes that look like a hand and fingers that are pointed), which are deeply incised (very jagged like a steak knife).





- HEIGHT: 3 to 8 feet high.
- **STEM:** 1 to 2 inches in diameter; stem may have a few faint purple spots and deep ridges, with fuzzy/soft hairs.
- LEAF SIZE: Can be 1 to 2 feet wide.
- FLOWERS: Umbel-shaped (a slightly rounded white flower cluster in which the individual flower stalks [rays] arise from the same point to form the complete flower head) can be 6 to 18 inches across.
- LEAVES: Palmate-shaped, compound leaves (looks similar to a maple leaf, or an open palm with fingers outstretched that are rounded), and is divided into three segments.

Scan For More Information On Invasive Species



https://dnr.wi.gov/tiny/1086

Equal Opportunity Employer and Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have questions, please write to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C. Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, etc.) upon request. Please call the Division of Forestry at 608-267-7494 for more information.

If you need technical assistance or more information, call the accessibility Coordinator at 608-267-7490/TTY Access via relay - 711.

INVASIVE.SPECIES@WISCONSIN.GOV •



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources PO Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921 invasive.species@wisconsin.gov



DNR.WI.GOV

DNR PUB-FR-817 2022