Heracleum mantegazzianum – Giant Hogweed
Potentially invasive herbaceous plant

Giant hogweed can grow up to 15 feet tall.
Photos from Brooklyn, CT. Photos: Donna Ellis, UConn
*Heracleum mantegazzianum* – Giant Hogweed
Potentially invasive herbaceous plant

**CAUTION: POISONOUS PLANT!**

Giant hogweed flower

Giant hogweed foliage

Giant hogweed fruits

Photos: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE, Bugwood.org
Comparison

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* vs. *Heracleum maximum*
Giant Hogweed (invasive) vs. Cow Parsnip (native)

Seeds of giant hogweed (left) and cow parsnip (right). Note the heart-shaped lobes of the cow parsnip seed.

*Photo: Donna Ellis, UConn*

CAUTION: POISONOUS PLANT!

Giant hogweed stem. Note bristles at nodes.

*Photo: Donna Ellis, UConn*

Giant hogweed stem (left). Cow parsnip stem (right).

*Left photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE
Right photo: Naja Kraus, DEC-FHP, www.dot.ny.gov*
### Comparison

**Heracleum mantegazzianum vs. Heracleum maximum**

**Giant Hogweed (invasive) vs. Cow Parsnip (native)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Giant Hogweed Traits:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cow Parsnip Traits:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native Region:</strong> Eurasia</td>
<td><strong>Native Region:</strong> Eastern North America</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flowers:</strong> Mid-June to July, umbrella-shaped clusters up to 2.5’ wide</td>
<td><strong>Flowers:</strong> Late May to June, flat-topped clusters up to 1’ wide</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stems:</strong> Ridged with reddish purple blotches, 2 – 4” inch diameter</td>
<td><strong>Stems:</strong> Deeply ridged, entirely green or with slightly purplish cast, 1 – 2” diameter</td>
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<td><strong>Hairs:</strong> Coarse, erect hairs in thick circle at base of leaf stalk</td>
<td><strong>Hairs:</strong> Fine, soft and fuzzy white hairs</td>
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<td><strong>Leaves:</strong> Deeply incised and up to 5’ wide</td>
<td><strong>Leaves:</strong> Velvety appearance and between 2 – 2.5’ wide</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fruit:</strong> Oval-shaped</td>
<td><strong>Fruit:</strong> Heart-shaped</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Height:</strong> 7 to 15 feet</td>
<td><strong>Height:</strong> 5 to 8 feet</td>
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