

Heracleum mantegazzianum – Giant Hogweed

Potentially invasive herbaceous plant

CAUTION: POISONOUS PLANT!



Giant hogweed can grow up to 15 feet tall.

Photos from Brooklyn, CT. Photos: Donna Ellis, UConn

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Giant hogweed flower



Giant hogweed foliage



Giant hogweed fruits

Comparison

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

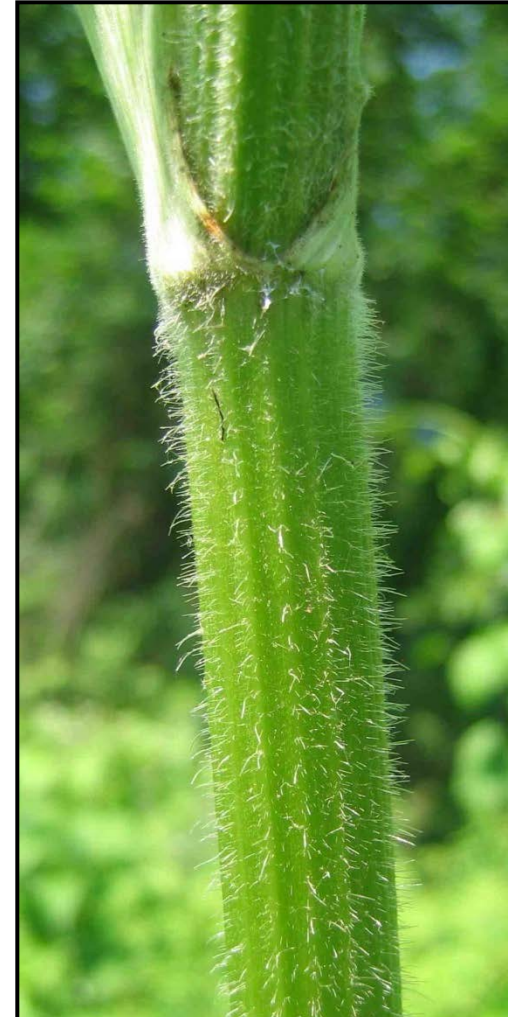


Seeds of giant hogweed (left) and cow parsnip (right).
Note the heart-shaped lobes of the cow parsnip seed.

Photo: Rose Hiskes, CAES



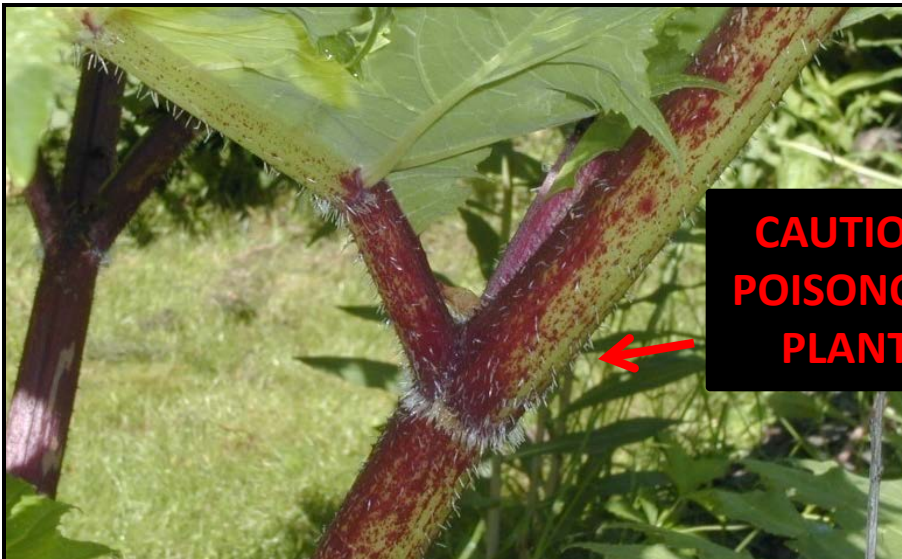
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Giant hogweed stem (left). Cow parsnip stem (right).

Left photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE

Right photo: Naja Kraus, DEC-FHP, www.dot.ny.gov



Giant hogweed stem. Note bristles at nodes. *Photo:*

Donna Ellis, UConn

Comparison

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

Giant Hogweed Traits:

- **Native Region:** Eurasia
- **Flowers:** Mid-June to July, umbrella-shaped clusters up to 2.5' wide
- **Stems:** Ridged with reddish purple blotches, 2 – 4" inch diameter
- **Hairs:** Coarse, erect hairs in thick circle at base of leaf stalk
- **Leaves:** Deeply incised and up to 5' wide
- **Fruit:** Oval-shaped
- **Height:** 7 to 15 feet

Cow Parsnip Traits:

- **Native Region:** Eastern North America
- **Flowers:** Late May to June, flat-topped clusters up to 1' wide
- **Stems:** Deeply ridged, entirely green or with slightly purplish cast, 1 – 2" diameter
- **Hairs:** Fine, soft and fuzzy white hairs
- **Leaves:** Velvety appearance and between 2 – 2.5' wide
- **Fruit:** Heart-shaped
- **Height:** 5 to 8 feet