



FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *HERACLEUM MANTEGAZZIANUM*
COMMON NAME: GIANT HOGWEED
KNOWN TO OCCUR IN NC

WHAT IS GIANT HOGWEED?

Plant Type: Perennial or biennial herb

Form/Size: Grows up to 15 feet tall. Stem is hollow, 2-4 in. wide with reddish-purple blotches and coarse hairs.

Leaves: Compound with 3 leaflets, deeply dissected, sharply pointed, up to 5 feet wide.

Flowers: Group of small white flowers in an umbrella shaped umbel, 2.5 ft. wide, blooms late spring.



Fruit: Oval, flattened, and dry about 3/8 in. long with rounded base and marginal ridges; up to 1500 seeds per flower head.

Means of Spread: By human activities including using seeds for ornamental plantings and as a spice in Middle-eastern cooking. Birds may spread seeds.

Family: Apiaceae

Similar Species: *Angelica* (*Angelica atropureurea*) has smooth purple stem, Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lantanum*) has palmately lobed leaves and soft, shiny hairs on leaf underside; neither species reaches more than 8 ft.



WHERE DID GIANT HOGWEED COME FROM?

Origin: Europe and Asia

Date of Introduction: 1917

Reason: Introduced as an ornamental

WHERE AM I LIKELY TO FIND GIANT HOGWEED?

Habitat Type: Disturbed soil, moist soil, riverbanks, ditches, right-of ways, agricultural areas.

Distribution in SC: No records

Distribution in NC: Limited, Caldwell County



Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species



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WHY IS GIANT HOGWEED A PROBLEM?



Environment: -Displaces native plants reducing diversity and altering wildlife habitat structure; can dominate ravines and stream banks.

-Dies back in winter leaving bare soil that can erode on river and stream banks.

-Treatment with herbicides can kill native plants.

Economy: -Plant sap induces UV skin sensitivity in humans causing large painful blisters and eruptions; contact with eyes can cause temporary and permanent blindness.

-Control methods can be expensive and difficult for landowners and government agencies.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND GIANT HOGWEED?

Report: take a photo, *in SC:* call the Clemson University Plant Problem Clinic (864-656-2677) for guidance. *In NC:* call the NC Dept. of Agricultural Services (800-206-9333). Report the observation to EDDMapS: <http://www.se-eppc.org/> (location, size of infestation, etc.). Send digital photo to Botanist John Nelson at the USC Herbarium: plantman@herbarium.org for verification.

Control: Chemical treatment typically required; can replant area with competitive vegetation; biological control research ongoing.

Disposal: Handling plant material is not recommended, wear protective clothing if material is manually collected to be bagged and disposed of (so as not to spread viable material).

CURRENT LISTINGS:

Federal: Noxious Weed, State: Class A Noxious Weed in NC

SC-EPPC: Not Listed, NC-EPPC/NCNPS: Not Listed

NC-DOT: Watch List/Herbaceous Plant



LEARN MORE!

- Invasive.org (images): <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=4536>
- Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules of the US: <http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/FNW/FNW%20seeds/html/fact%20sheets/Heracleum%20mantegazzianum.htm>
- US Forest Service: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/giant-hogweed.pdf
- Natureserve: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Heracleum+mantegazzianum>

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