

GIANT HOGWEED

Heracleum mantagazzanum



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Mature Height	8 to 14 Feet	Soil Type	Prefers rich soils
Mature Spread	Up to 4 feet	Flower Color	White
Mature Form	Erect , branched	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Rapid	Fall Color	Green to Dormant
Sun Exposure	Prefers sun		
Soil Moisture	Moist		

Giant Hogweed is not on the current Indiana Invasive Plant List but it is potentially a serious public health hazard where it is found. It is moving into northern Indiana from Michigan. The reason for concern is that contact with the sap of this plant can cause severe skin reaction when the area is exposed to sunlight. The resulting reaction is worse than that caused by poison ivy, poison oak or poison sumac. It spreads by seed and from root shoots. Large colonies have developed from a single plant. The huge leaves shown below can be up to 5 inches across. The stem is hairy at the nodes and often has purplish splotches or coloring. If you think you have spotted this plant do not try to pull or otherwise touch it. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Service Office for instructions.



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This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

