

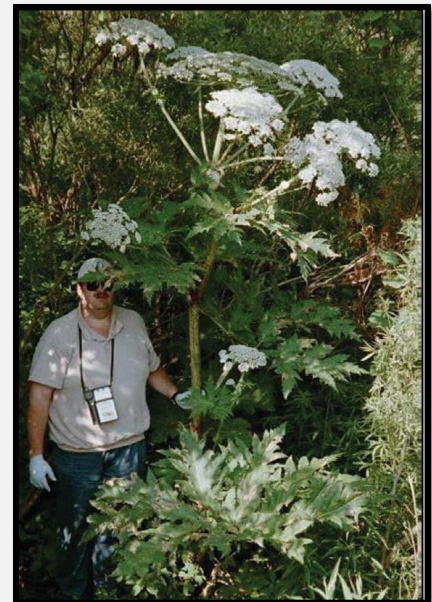
# SAFETY ALERT



H&S Bulletin No:	13	Date Issued:	July, 2014
Title:	Giant Hogweed Hazard ( <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> )		
Incident Type:	Hazard		

### Description:

Giant Hogweed is commonly found along roadways and streams, in ditches, near culverts and in other damp, shady areas. It is prevalent in Southern Ontario and is found as far north as the Haliburton area. The **Mississauga News** recently reported the finding of “several thousand Giant Hogweed plants in Mississauga - along the Credit River near Riverwood Park, and in Meadowvale – and Brampton”. Since the plant prefers cool, wet conditions, this summer has provided exceptional growing conditions for the plant’s proliferation. Contact with the sap of this plant can cause dermatitis, painful blisters, permanent scarring, and could cause blindness if it comes in contact with the eyes. For an adverse reaction to occur, the skin, contaminated with plant juices, must be moist (perspiration) and exposed to sunlight.



### Recommended Actions:

1. Familiarize yourself with its appearance and characteristics (refer to photo at right and links below).
2. Identify Hogweed areas in or near your work zone and inform your supervisor and co-workers of these areas.
3. Exercise caution when hiking or camping near creeks, streams and wetlands.
4. Avoid contact with the sap by avoiding contact with the plant. As the photo above indicates, it is often the largest plant in the area.

### If you do come in contact with Giant Hogweed:

- Wash the affected areas immediately with soap and water.
- Keep affected areas out of direct sunlight (sunlight increases the severity of the reaction).
- Seek medical advice as soon as possible.

The links below contain more detailed information on the Hogweed Plant.

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/Invaders.cfm?A=Page&PID=31>

[http://www.nanaimo.ca/uploadedfiles/Site\\_Structure/Development\\_Services/Engineering\\_and\\_Environmental\\_Services/Environmental\\_Services/GiantHogweed.pdf](http://www.nanaimo.ca/uploadedfiles/Site_Structure/Development_Services/Engineering_and_Environmental_Services/Environmental_Services/GiantHogweed.pdf)

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