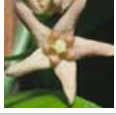




## Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

### Catalog of Species Search Results



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



## *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

(Giant hogweed  
Giant cow parsnip )

[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

### COMMON NAME

Giant hogweed  
Giant cow parsnip

### FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* Sommier & Levier

### FAMILY NAME COMMON

Carrot family

### FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)

### IMAGES



Leaf



Habit



inflorescence  
with fruit



Stem  
cross-section



Inflorescence



Habit



Close-up of  
fruits



Close-up of stem



Infructescences

## NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

**Synonyms:** None

## DESCRIPTION

### Botanical Glossary

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* is a herbaceous biennial or monocarpic perennial that can grow up to 4.3-5.8 m (15-20 ft.) in height. The stem is hollow and usually blotched with purple. Both the leaf stalks and stem produce pustulate bristles. The stem can be 4.8-9.6 cm (2-4 in.) in diameter. The leaves are ternate or ternate-pinnate with pinnately lobed lateral segments. They can be up to 3 m (9.8 ft.) in breadth.

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* flowers from June-July. The inflorescence has many white florets (with petals about 1 cm) that form a flat-topped umbel. Each inflorescence can have a diameter of up to 0.72 m (2.5 ft.). The fruits are dry and elliptic, measuring 8-11 mm (0.3-0.4 in.) long and 6-8 mm (0.25-0.3 in.) wide. The fruits have brown resin canals that can be up to 1 mm (0.04 in.) in diameter.

Page References Bailey 751, Flora Europaea 2:366, Gleason & Cronquist 382, Holmgren 358, Magee & Ahles 785. See reference section below for full citations.

## SIMILAR SPECIES

*Heracleum maximum* Bartr. (synonym: *H. lanatum* Michx.)  
(common cow parsnip)

*Pastinaca sativa* L. (wild parsnip)

*Angelica atropurpurea* L. (purple stem angelica)

*Phytolacca americana* L. (pokeweed)

*Lactuca biennis* (Moench) Fern. (blue lettuce)

Click [here](#) for a link to the Giant Hogweed comparison table

Other species not shown in table:

*Cicuta maculata* L. (spotted water hemlock) [Picture of \*C. maculata\*](#)

*Conium maculatum* L. (poison hemlock) [Picture of \*C. maculatum\*](#)

## REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

*Heracleum maximum* is often found along stream banks, and the seeds can be transported downstream by water.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* is a native of the Caucasus Mountains and southwest Asia. It was introduced as a garden plant in the United States, Europe, Canada and the United Kingdom. It was reported in Canada in southern Ontario around 1950. In the United States it is has been reported from Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania. In New England it has been identified in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

## HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* was introduced as early as 1917 as a garden curiosity, and most likely reached New England through cultivation in gardens.

## HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Edge  
Floodplain Forest  
River or Stream  
Roadside  
Vacant Lot  
Yard or Garden

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* is present along roadsides, in vacant lots and along streams and rivers. It prefers rich, moist soil, in semi-shade conditions.

## THREATS

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* can outcompete species for habitat, especially in riparian zones, and it may cause increased soil erosion. This plant is on the federal noxious weed list because of its poisonous sap. This sap makes skin very sensitive to UV radiation, causing blistering and sever burns. Caution should be taken when handling this weed. Removing it manually becomes very difficult because of the danger caused by its sap.

## EARLY WARNING NOTES

Although *Heracleum mantegazzianum* is found in four of the New England states, its populations are still few and somewhat localized. Any new sightings of this plant should be reported immediately.

## DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Specific photograph or mounted snippet showing the inflorescence with scale so as to ascertain the size.

Best time for documentation: Summer

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Taxonomic information about the species

The PLANTS database

General information and a map

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program

General and taxonomic information

Federal Noxious Weed Inspection Guide

General information including natural history

Washington Department of Ecology

General information and photographs

Pennsylvania Bureau of Plant Industry

Brochure with general information, warnings, maps, photographs and a hotline number

Invasivespecies.gov

Additional links

## REFERENCES

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Gleason, H.A. and A.C. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

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## DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

## MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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