

Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States

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Swearingen, J., K. Reshetiloff, B. Slattery, and S. Zwicker. 2002. Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas. National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 82 pp.

Giant Hogweed*Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Giant hogweed was introduced from Eurasia around 1917 for use as an ornamental plant. It is a tall, showy member of the parsley family (Apiaceae), growing from 8 to 14 feet in height. Its thick stems have purple blotches and coarse hairs. Giant hogweed has escaped cultivation and may become established in rich, moist soils along roadsides, stream banks and disturbed areas. It is a dangerous, poisonous plant that should not be touched. It spreads by seed.

Prevention and Control

Do not cultivate, plant, purchase, or transplant this plant. It is very difficult to control. If found, notify your state Department of Agriculture, who will handle control measures.

Native Alternatives

Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium dubium* or *fistulosum*), boneset or white snake root (*Eupatorium perfoliatum* or *rugosum*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), southern arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)



USDA, APHIS

[\[Home \]](#) | [\[Contents \]](#)

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