

Why it's harmful

- › Sap from the leaves and stem is extremely toxic and will burn and blister skin on contact.
- › Out competes native plants and threatens biodiversity.

How to control it

Giant Hogweed spreads aggressively, primarily by seed. A single plant can produce up to 100,000 seeds, which can remain viable in the soil for up to 15 years. The seeds are "winged" and can travel large distances by wind and water.

Manual Control

- › Protective clothing, including eye protection and gloves, is necessary before touching the plant. Consider hiring a professional.
- › Because of its shallow root system, young plants can be manually pulled.
- › Mature plants should be cut down to the ground before they flower. This may need to be done repeatedly. During flowering season, be sure to cut and bag flower heads first for secure disposal. Sever the root about 5-15 cm below the soil surface using a long-handled narrow shovel or spade.
- › Do NOT compost any part of the plant.

Herbicide Control

- › Cut or chemically treated stems and leaves can be left on-site to decompose unless there is any risk that people or pets will encounter them. Viable seeds and roots should not be left on-site due to the risk of re-growth.

Who's responsible

The Province of BC's Weed Control Act, designates Knotweeds as a "noxious" weed. This means it is non-native and can cause significant economic and environmental loss. It also means that all property owners are legally obligated to control it when it is on their land.

FVRD Invasive Weed Control Program

- › The FVRD Weed Control Program targets Knotweeds, Giant Hogweed, Tansy Ragwort and Wild Chervil on public roadsides in Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Electoral Areas C, D, E, G and H.
- › For more information about invasive weeds in the region, email the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society at info@fviss or call 778-548-3487



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Giant Hogweed



What it looks like

Stem

- › Rigid, hollow and green
- › Covered in dark red or purple spots, and little white hairs



Flowers

- › Small white flowers
- › Grow in umbrella-shaped clusters that can be up to 1 metre across



Leaf

- › Dark green and coarsely toothed with 3 large segments
- › Can be up to 2.5 metres long
- › Dense covering of stiff hairs underneath

