

# WANTED

# Giant Hogweed



## Seedlings

- Have a rosette pattern
- Germinate from early Spring through the growing season



## Juvenile Plants

- Sprout from over-wintering roots each year for 2-5 years until the plant is ready to bolt and flower
- Are large, compound, sharply and unevenly lobed



## Giant Hogweed

- Is a public health hazard and listed as a Federal as well as a Massachusetts Noxious Weed
- Causes severe irritation when its sap comes in contact with skin or eyes that later are exposed to the sun
- Is found most commonly in rich moist soils along roadsides, stream banks and waste grounds
- May grow to 14 or more feet tall
- Dies back in the Fall and takes on a skeleton like appearance, with long rays of dried flower heads shooting out from tall brown stalks



## Flowers

- Occur from mid-June to mid-July
- Form from clusters of small white flowers at the end of long rays
- Produce dozens of seeds
- May measure up to 2 feet across



## Stems

- Are hollow and range in size from 2-4 inches in diameter
- Have a coarse hairy texture with reddish-purple blotches
- Have larger coarse white hairs found at the base of the leaf stalk
- Contain clear sap that causes painful, burning blisters in exposed skin



## Skin Irritation

- Is caused by chemicals found in the plant's sap when contacted skin is later exposed to sunlight
- May take the form of large, painful, burning blisters
- May also take the form of red blotches that later develop into purplish or blackened scars
- Usually will appear within a few days of exposure to the plant's sap

**DON'T Touch or handle plants with bare hands**

**DON'T Allow children to play in Giant Hogweed**

**DON'T Transplant Giant Hogweed, plant its seeds or give away plants or seeds**

**DO Wash immediately with soap and water if hogweed sap contacts your skin**

**DO Report locations of any Giant Hogweed plants**

# [www.massnrc.org/pests](http://www.massnrc.org/pests)