

Giant Hogweed Identification Key:

1. Flower Color

a. Yellow flower - wild parsnip (not giant hogweed) Do not touch this plant! Wild parsnip can cause skin irritation and blistering.



wild parsnip flower



*wild parsnip stem - note the grooves
and lack of hairs*



wild parsnip leaf



wild parsnip plants

b. White Flower - go to #2.

2. Flower Shape

a. Ball shaped flower - angelica (softball sized and shaped flower) (not giant hogweed)



angelica flower



angelica stem



angelica leaves



angelica plants

b. Flat-topped - go to #3.

3. Flower Size

a. Small flower cluster (less than 6 inches) - poison hemlock or queen anne's lace (not giant hogweed)



*poison hemlock credit:
Brother Alfred Brousseau,
St. Mary's College of CA*



Queen Anne's lace

b. Large flower cluster (greater than 12 inches) - go to #4.

4. Stem

a. Green to slightly purple, no purple blotches, fine/fuzzy hairs, no stiff hairs/bristles - cow parsnip (not giant hogweed) Do not touch this plant! Cow parsnip can cause skin irritation and blistering.



cow parsnip stem



cow parsnip flower



cow parsnip leaves



cow parsnip plants

b. Green with extensive purple blotches and stiff white hairs/bristles - giant hogweed



giant hogweed stem

Characteristics of the giant hogweed plant:

1. White flowers (The main flower of giant hogweed has 50-150 flower rays. Cow parsnip has 15-30 flower rays.)



giant hogweed flower in seed showing 50+ rays



cow parsnip flower showing 15-30 rays



giant hogweed flower

2. more than 8 feet tall (unless previously mowed or cut)



giant hogweed plants

3. Huge leaves, incised and deeply lobed



giant hogweed leaf



giant hogweed leaf

4. green stem with purple blotches and coarse white hairs



giant hogweed stem

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/41009.html>