

## 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>