

SAFETY ALERT!

BEWARE OF GIANT HOGWEED

THE SAP COATING THIS PLANT IS TOXIC

contact can cause:

- *Severe inflammation*
- *Painful Blisters*
- *Long-term sunlight sensitivity*
- *Scars lasting up to 6 years*
- *Blindness*

Giant hogweed plants grow to between 10 and 20 ft. tall, have broad leaves at the base, thick stems, and white flowers sprouting from the top.



SKIN BURNS/BLISTERS CAUSED BY GIANT HOGWEED SAP EXPOSURE



HOW TO BE SAFE AROUND GIANT HOGWEED



IF WORKING AROUND GIANT HOGWEED PLANTS

- Do not touch the plant with bare skin
- Do not touch your bare skin with sap covered gloves
- Prevent UV sunlight from reaching skin by:
 - Wearing long waterproof gloves, long sleeves, pants, boots, and eye protection; synthetic water-resistant materials are best since cotton and linen fibers can soak up the sap and be penetrated by plant hairs
- If controlling plants with multiple people, keep a good distance from one another as the sap can splash three to four feet
- Apply sun block before working near giant hogweed
- Launder clothes that may have contacted plants
- Wash equipment with water immediately after use
- Limit exposure to sunlight after control OR work around giant hogweed plants
- DO NOT use a 'weed-whacker' or brush cutter - sap may splatter
- Keep water, soap, and eye-wash near work area in case of exposure

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE EXPOSED TO GIANT HOGWEED SAP?

- Wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and **COLD** water as soon as possible
- Keep exposed area away from sunlight for 48 hours
- If a reaction occurs, topical steroids applied early can reduce the severity of the reaction and ease discomfort
- If sap goes in eyes, rinse them with water and wear sunglasses
- If a reaction has occurred, the area of skin may be sensitive to sunlight for a few years and you may want to apply sun block or keep the affected area covered from the sun when possible
- See a physician if you have a reaction or any questions.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAR GIANT HOGWEED: IF YOU ENCOUNTER THIS PLANT, CALL EXPERTS AT:

**THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**

1-800-292-3939