



Giant hogweed

Find out how to **control this pest**

What does giant hogweed look like?

Giant hogweed can grow up to 6 metres tall and has large serrated leaves up to 100 cm long. From December to February, it produces large umbrella-like clusters of greenish-white flowers.

.....

Is it dangerous? Yes.



Giant hogweed is **poisonous to humans**, and exposure to dust or sap from the leaves or stem can cause skin irritation, blistering, and swelling. If you get the sap in your eyes, it can cause temporary or permanent blindness.

.....

Where is it?

Giant hogweed can grow on river and stream banks and in gullies, ditches, and drainage channels. It has been sighted in coastal Otago from Ōamaru to The Catlins and in Central.

.....

Removal tips over the page . . .



Photos: Trevor James

How to safely remove giant hogweed

If you think you have found it on your property, follow these guidelines:

- Wear protective gear to cover your arms, hands and eyes.
- If you get the dust or sap on your skin, wash the area immediately.



Take great care

Removal options include:

- Pulling the whole plant out before it seeds in spring/summer.
- Cutting stems below ground level in summer and spraying any re-growth with glyphosate as required.
- Spraying entire plant with glyphosate in spring, and in summer if required.



Please note:

Seeds can remain viable for up to five years. To effectively control this pest, monitor the site and consider planting other species to prevent giant hogweed growing back.



For more info: orc.govt.nz/gianthogweed

For native planting advice:
orc.govt.nz/nativeplantingguide

For other pest info: orc.govt.nz/pesthub

0800 474 082

orc.govt.nz



Otago
Regional
Council