

## Giant Hogweed Invasive Pest

Several invasive pests have been in the news lately, most notably Giant Hogweed. This invasive pest has not been found in Bay County at this time. However, Giant Hogweed has been discovered in neighboring Saginaw County so it's important to know what to look for.



Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a noxious weed that was brought to the US from Asian as an ornamental plant specimen for gardens. It is a giant member of the carrot and Queen Ann's Lace family. The plant has chunky, greenish-purple stems topped by platter-sized, dissected foliage. Flower clusters borne in summer are also reminiscent of carrot, parsley or Queen Anne's lace and are borne on strong, hairy stalks well above the foliage. The sap from all parts of the plant can cause a severe dermatitis when the skin that has contacted the sap is exposed to sunlight.

For more information on Giant Hogweed go to the MSU Extension bulletin:

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/files/E2935\\_2012\\_Revision.pdf](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/files/E2935_2012_Revision.pdf). Be on the lookout but do not expect to find giant hogweed here in Bay County. You may find angelica or cow parsnip, both Michigan native plants in ditches or wet areas of your yard but these plants are less likely to cause injury. If you have any questions about this invasive pest, please contact Alicia Wallace, Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator at 989-895-4195 or via email at [wallacea@baycounty.net](mailto:wallacea@baycounty.net).