

Town of Ancram Conservation Advisory Council

Wild Parsnip and Giant Hogweed What are they and how can you help?

What are wild parsnip and giant hogweed?

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) are members of the carrot and wild parsley family (Apiaceae). They are both considered invasive species, are native to Eurasia and harmful to people coming in contact with the sap.

Wild parsnip is believed to have escaped while under cultivation and is now widely distributed throughout the Northern United States and Southern Canada. It can grow four to five feet tall and exist in many environmental conditions.



wild parsnip flower Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio state University, Bugwood.org



wild parsnip Plant Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



wild parsnip foliage Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



wild parsnip stem Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Giant hogweed was initially introduced to Great Britain in the 19th century as an ornamental plant, due to its unusual size. It was transported to North America and Canada and featured in victorian gardens. It can grow 15 to 20 feet tall and has stems with purplish blotches and raised nodules.



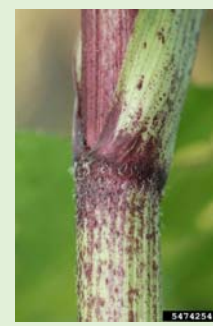
giant hogweed flower USDA APHIS PPQ- Oxford North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



giant hogweed plant USDA APHIS PPQ- Oxford North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



giant hogweed foliage Leslie J. Mehroff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



giant hogweed stem Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

What are the impacts of wild parsnip and giant hogweed?

Both wild parsnip and giant hogweed can form dense colonies which shade out slower growing native plants. This can reduce the varied vegetation cover that many different wildlife rely upon for survival.

Additionally, both plants are toxic to humans. When the sap from broken stems or leaves is deposited on the skin and exposed to UV light (sunlight), rashes and sores develop within one to three days. This phenomenon is referred to as *phytophotodermatitis*.

What can I do?

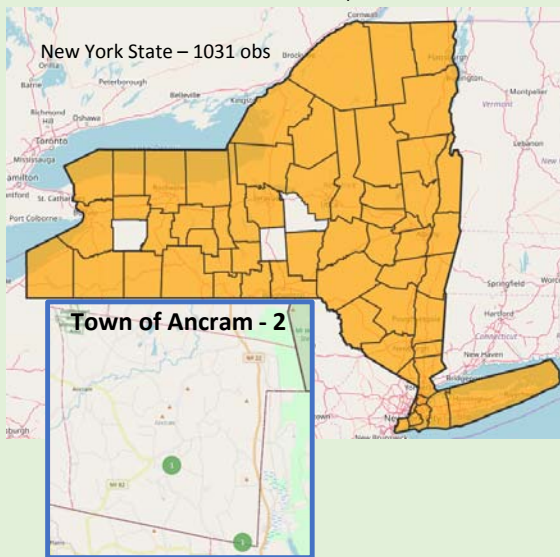
It is best to not come in direct contact with these plants. If you need more information about control, contact the local Cornell Cooperative Extension office at 518-622-9820 or email at: columbiagreene@cornell.edu

Manual control of small patches of wild parsnip may be effective, if done before the plant goes to seed. Mowing is most effective when the plant first flowers, but before the seeds enlarge.

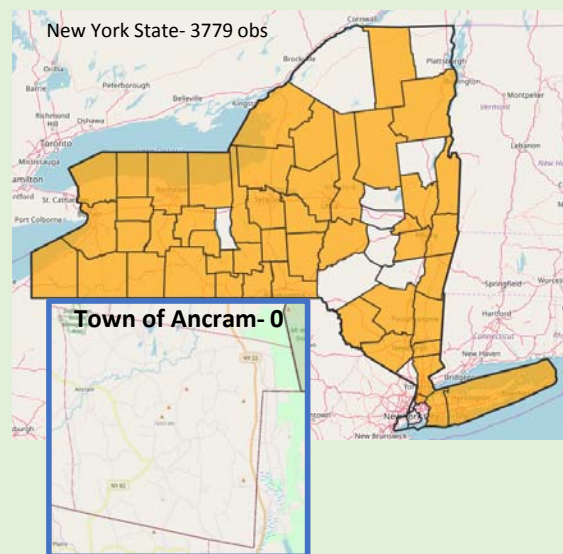
Giant hogweed is very difficult to eradicate. It is commonly treated with pesticides, but can be controlled with repeated mowing through a growing season. It is very important to find out what chemicals are approved for homeowner use and effective on this plant. This information can be found by calling the giant hogweed hotline 845-256-3111.

The first step in the control of invasive species is understanding how they are distributed within the state, county, or a municipality such as Ancram. New York State uses iMapInvasives to track the locations of invasive species and provides this information to many state and local partners.

Wild Parsnip Distribution
Accessed 8/23/18 from iMapInvasives



Giant Hogweed Distribution
Accessed 8/23/18 from iMapInvasives



Report invasive species locations to the NYS Invasive Species Database

By reporting invasive species in your area you will help natural professionals protect our natural resources.

To get involved, go to www.NYimainvasives.org and:

1. Request a Login
2. Get Trained with the online video training
3. Login and Map it!
 - Use the step-by-step data entry to report invasive species on your computer or smartphone



References:

Invasive and Exotic Species of North America. (2018). Retrieved from <http://www.invasive.org>

New York Invasive Species Information – New York State's integrated invasive species databases and information clearinghouse. (2018). Retrieved from <http://www.nyis.info>

Contact the iMapInvasives team with questions:
imainvasives@nynhp.org