

Giant Hogweed



Giant Hogweed is a member of the umbel family and can easily be identified by its size, often growing to over 2 meters in height and flower heads sometimes 80cm across. Giant Hogweed is native to the Caucasus Mountains and central Asia but was introduced to the UK as an ornamental plant. They have since become established along river banks across the UK, including on the Tweed.

What Does It Mean?

Hogweed will often form dense stands. Due to its size, this means that native flora can often be shaded out and outcompeted. Each plant can produce tens of thousands of seeds which can live dormant in the soil for up to three years. Another problem with Giant Hogweed though is that it is toxic to humans, releasing a sap which can cause serious burns if come into contact with.

What Can Be Done?

Giant Hogweed is one of the main target species in the Tweed's Biosecurity Plan and in a large scale Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) project run by the Tweed Forum. You can visit the Tweed Forum's website to find out more about their INNS project.

(<https://tweedforum.org/our-work/projects/tweed-invasives-project/giant-hogweed/>)

The Tweed Foundation contribute to the project by reporting any Giant Hogweed plants and their locations to the Tweed Forum, and you can do the same. If you see a Giant Hogweed plant, please let the Tweed Forum know or contact us using the details below and we can pass on the information.

The Tweed Foundation
Drygrange Steading, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD69DJ
Tel: 01896 848271
Email: info@tweedfoundation.org.uk