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Dangerous invasive species, knocking on Halton Hills' door

Posted on Sunday, July 19 @ 11:45:50 EDT by [Editor](#)



4th Line/Esquesing Line & Fith Side Road

Halton - Milton: On Fourth Line, just 1 kilometer south from the town line of Halton Hills, a large infestation of Giant Hogweed that has flowered, is preparing to spread its seeds.



Giant Hogweed

Giant Hogweed, is a non-native invasive plant that is popping up throughout Halton Region. The plant poses a serious threat to human health and the natural ecosystem. The sap contained in the hairs covering the plant and in the stem can cause severe burns when in contact with skin and can cause blindness in the eyes.



LOCATION

If you are exposed to Giant Hogweed:

- * wash affected areas immediately;
- * keep the affected area out of the sun;
- * seek medical advice for burns.

The sap found in the Giant Hogweed stem and stem hairs causes phytophotodermatitis, a serious skin inflammation activated by exposure to the sun. Symptoms typically consist of painful blisters that form within 48 hours of exposure, and pigmented scars that can last up to 6 years.

To remove one of these plants from your own property:

- * wear protective clothing, including gloves, long sleeves, pants, and eye protection;
- * immediately remove any flower heads to prevent seed growth and dispersal;
- * sever the plant roots 8 – 12 cm below the soil surface;
- * dispose of all plant parts in double-bagged garbage bags, and DO NOT COMPOST;
- * return to plant site periodically to remove any new plant growth.

If you see this plant in Halton Hills parks, roads, or private lands, please contact [The Town of Halton Hills](#) with plant location.

[Hiking and safety tips](#)