



Type of Guide: Weeding & Weed Control



How to Remove Giant Hogweed

After a number of high-profile incidents involving injuries caused by Giant Hogweed at the start of the summer holiday, we're here to set your mind at rest with a simple and cost effective solution for how you can treat it.

With its large, distinctive, cow-parsley-like appearance, you can't miss this intrusive weed in your garden or when you're out and about, particularly near rivers and waterways. Giant Hogweed is a [perennial plant](#) which can grow up to 5m tall with dark green leaves, and has an umbrella-like head when flowering.

Treating persistent weeds like Giant Hogweed is easy with a suitable [Glyphosate-based weedkiller](#). This special ingredient is absorbed by the leaves and moves throughout the entire weed, above and below ground, killing the whole weed through to its roots.

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It is advisable to **spray young Giant Hogweed foliage before it flowers** in April or May, and new seedlings or any re-growth should be treated in August or September, if necessary. Continue to monitor the site each spring and treat new seedlings, which can continue to emerge from seeds for up to ten years.

When treating Giant Hogweed choose an overcast day and ensure you **always wear gloves**, cover your arms and legs, wear closed footwear and ideally wear a facemask.

Cutting Hogweed is never advisable, as the sap can cause severe burns when in contact with skin in sunlight. If the weed makes contact with skin, wash it immediately and seek medical advice if you experience any persistent irritation.

Disposal of Giant Hogweed is vital, so **burn all the waste to ensure it doesn't spread**. Avoid putting it in your compost bin, as this could result in it spreading around your garden.