

Giant hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Species of Union concern



©Etienne Branquart



Invasive species native to western Caucasus. **Widespread** in the wild in Belgium

Found **along waterways, roads** or in **gardens**



Terrestrial plant that can grow to heights of 3 to 4 m

Large toothed leaves which are deeply divided and dissected.
Glossy appearance due to the absence of hair



©Leslie J Mehrhoff (1)

Forms **dense monospecific stands**



Toxic sap which can cause severe burns

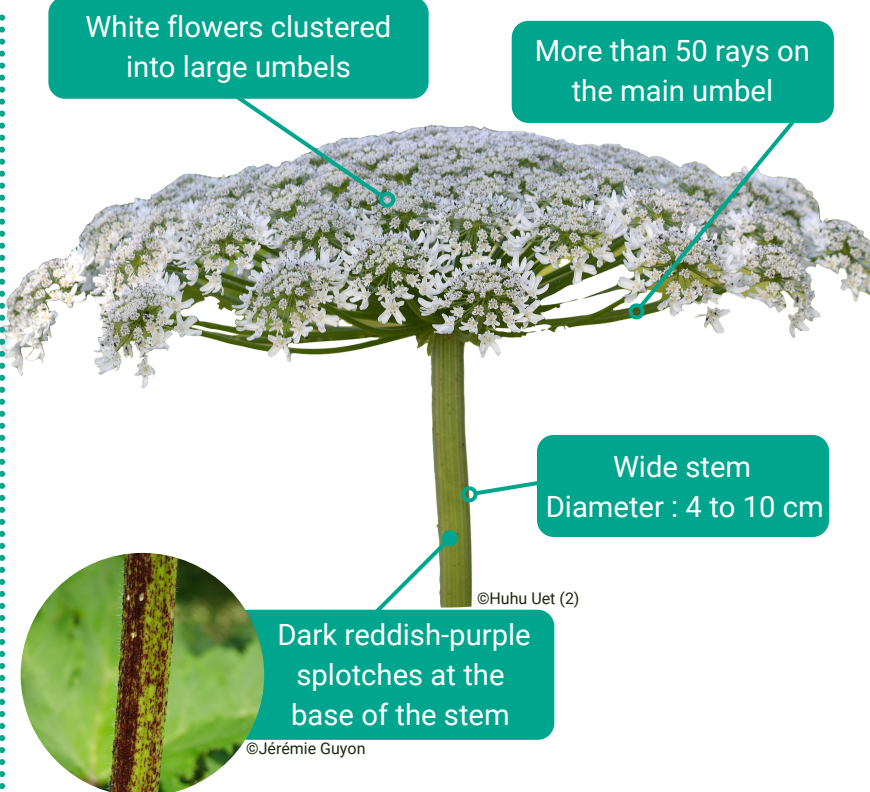


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If you spot that species, record your observation on

Observations.be **iNaturalist**

You will contribute to the protection of our ecosystems against invasive alien species



©Huhu Uet (2)

Dark reddish-purple splotches at the base of the stem

©Jérémie Guyon

There are 2 other invasive alien species of giant hogweed that can be differentiated through genetic analysis

Not to be confused with

Heracleum sphondylium - Native



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- Less than 30 rays on the main umbel
- Round and hairy leaves giving a matt appearance
- Smaller size (<2m)
- Ridged hollow stem with diffuse red spots

Angelica archangelica - Native

- Round umbels
- Greenish-white flowers
- Finely toothed leaves
- Smaller size (<2m)



©Wouter Hagens (4)



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1: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5452682>

2: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heracleum_mantegazzianum_07.JPG

3: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heracleum_sphondylium_flower.jpg

4: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Angelica_archangelica_in_a_garden_\(Belgium\)_-_B.jpg](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Angelica_archangelica_in_a_garden_(Belgium)_-_B.jpg)