

City Taking Steps To Control Giant Hogweed (*heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Mississauga Recreation and Parks is implementing a plan to advise the public through signage where Giant Hogweed is located in City parks and natural areas, and to control the spread of this weed.



Hogweed is a large, invasive plant identifiable by its tall growth (up to five metres) and thick stem with reddish spots. Its bloom resembles Queen Anne's lace or wild carrot but is much larger. It originated in western Asia but now can be found throughout Ontario in ravines and wooded open spaces. It has been identified in Mississauga mainly along the Credit River. The concern focuses on the Giant Hogweed's sap which contains chemicals that cause the skin to become hypersensitive to sunlight and erupt in painful blisters.

The City is partnering with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority to determine the best means to control Hogweed. Options include mechanically removing the weed or treating it with a controlled herbicide. If residents should come across the weed on City property, they are advised to not remove the weed themselves. This can cause harm to the individual and may scatter seeds and result in spreading the plant. Rather, report all Hogweed sightings to 3-1-1 (905-615-4311 from outside city limits).

Park users will not come into contact with Giant Hogweed as long as they stay on established park paths. Where contact next to established park paths may be possible, plants are being removed. Signs have been posted in natural areas and parks to advise residents where the plant has been found.

It is important to note that other plants in our green spaces look like Giant Hogweed. These include Angelica, Cow Parsnip and Wild Parsnip. The majority of reported cases to the City have turned out not to be Giant Hogweed but rather a look-a-like plant.

For more information about Giant Hogweed or to report a possible location please contact 3-1-1 (905-615-4311 from outside city limits).