

Field Guide to Noxious and Other Selected Weeds of British Columbia

Giant Hogweed (a.k.a. Giant Cow Parsnip) (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Plants grow to 5 metres tall

- large, hairy perennial herb in the Parsley Family with stout taproot of fleshy, fibrous roots; hollow green stems with purple spots grows to 5 metres tall; dark green, coarsely toothed leaves divided into 3 large segments; lower leaves can exceed 2.5 metres in length; small white flowers are produced in large flat-top umbrella-like terminal clusters up to 0.8 metres across
- can produce 50,000 seeds per plant
- an escaped garden ornamental originating from Caucasus region of Asia
- **Warning:** small hairs on stems and leaves contain a poisonous sap that can cause severe irritation, blistering and dermatitis



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Japanese Knotweed (a.k.a. Japanese bamboo, Mexican bamboo) (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)



- rhizomatous, semi-woody, herbaceous perennial in the Buckwheat Family that grows to 3 metres in height; "bamboo-like" stems are green to reddish brown and spotted; leaves are egg-shaped, stalked, 10 to 15 cm long, flattened or rounded at the base with a pointed tip and are dark green above and lighter green below; greenish to creamy-white flowers are produced in clusters from the leaf axils.
- an escaped ornamental originating from eastern Asia, Japanese knotweed forms aggressive, dense thickets maintained by extensive and deep, creeping rhizomes. New shoots are known to penetrate thick asphalt

Creamy-white flower cluster



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Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)



- **Provincial Noxious Weed**

- biennial to short-lived perennial growing 0.3 to 1.2 metres tall; leaves deeply cut into irregular segments give plant a "ragged" appearance; yellow flowers in a flat-topped cluster
- contains a toxic alkaloid which reacts with enzyme in livestock to create cumulative liver damage



Deeply divided rosette leaves



*Ray flowers distinguish this plant from common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)*

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Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)



- **Regional Noxious Weed**

- tuberous-rooted biennial to perennial in the Parsley Family; grows from 0.3 to over 1.8 metres tall; stems are furrowed and hollow with fringe of hairs at stem nodes; fern-like nearly hairless leaves; white flowers produce 2 joined seeds with antenna-like structures at tip
- taproot can extend over 1.8 metres into the soil
- wild chervil is not aromatic like the domestic herb, salad chervil



Fern-like leaf