

Features of hogweed species

	Plant species	Height (cm)	Stem	Leaf	Flower	Fruit	Distribution
Tall invasive hogweeds	Giant Hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> Monocarpic	200-400 (-500)	Shaggy (villous) upper stem; lower stem coarsely ridged and more or less hairy (with stiff hairs). Stem up to 10 cm thick at base with purple blotches	Leaves broad, pinnately divided to a varying extent, hairless or covered with short, soft hairs. Segments dissected, narrowly lance shaped, gradually tapering to a point or sharply pointed. Leaf margin saw-edged. Hairless on the upper surface, slightly hairy beneath Base of leaf stalk greatly inflated and winged	White flowers (June-August). Flat compound umbels. Terminal umbel up to 80 cm across with 50-150 hairy rays. Rays have both long and short flexuose hairs. Strongly irregularly outer flowers	Fruit oval, usually hairless to shaggy (villous) and dorsally much compressed; usually >10 mm long. Very conspicuous, expanded oil ducts that do not reach the fruit base. Fruit wings hairless or with solitary spine-like hairs	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lichtenstein, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Northern Ireland, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK (including Northern Ireland) Occasional or possible occurrence in: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine
	<i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i> Monocarpic	100-300	Stem ridged and sparsely hairy stem with purple blotches very similar to Giant Hogweed. Stems and petioles vary from green to deeply purple	Hairless on the upper surface, slightly hairy beneath. Lower leaves divided into three segments that are non-deeply divided into oval shortly sharply pointed parts. Leaf margin with short rounded teeth	Flowers white, sometimes pinkish. Outer petals radiate, 9-10 mm long. Slightly convex compound umbels, 30-50 cm across. 30-75 (120 or more in terminal inflorescence) rays with only short hairs	Fruit egg-shaped or oval; 9-12 mm (-15 mm) long. Unripe densely hairy. Ripe fruit wings with numerous spines situated on small spherical or ovoid swellings. Very conspicuous oil ducts that do not reach the fruit base	Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine
	<i>Heracleum persicum</i> Perennial	(100-) 150-300	Stem purple, 1.5-2 cm thick at the base, more or less hairy (with stiff hairs). Whole plant has anise odour	Lower leaves 1-pinnate, hairless on the upper surface, slightly hairy beneath (covered with short, soft hairs). Leaflets usually 5, pinnately divided into oval to lance shaped lobes. Leaf margin with short rounded teeth. Over 40 cm long	Convex compound umbels. White flowers, outer petals radiate. Umbel with 20-80 rigidly hairy rays	Fruit varying from oval to egg-shaped with the narrower end at the base. Densely hairy; 13-15 mm long, 6-7 mm wide. Very conspicuous, slightly expanded oil ducts that do not reach the fruit base	Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden Possible occurrence in: Hungary, Latvia, UK

Native hogweeds	Cow Parsnip / Hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	80-200	Lower stem sparsely hairy, upper stem more densely hairy (with stiff hairs). Deeply ridged	Simply pinnately divided with lobed 5-9 segments, margin with low, rounded or scalloped projections or saw-like margin. Rather densely hairy beneath (with stiff hairs). Leaves sometimes with elongated, linear lobes	Flowers white or rarely pink or greenish-white. Outer petals radiate. Compound umbels flat or slightly convex. 12-25 rays	Fruit egg-shaped to nearly rounded and dorsally much compressed. 6-10mm long. Smooth or sparsely hairy. Conspicuous, but narrow oil ducts that do not reach the fruit base	Most of Europe except the extreme north and much of the Mediterranean region
	<i>Heracleum sibiricum</i>	60-100	Lower stem densely hairy, upper stem slightly hairy (with stiff hairs). Ridged stem	Simply pinnately divided with lobed 5-7 segments, margin with low, rounded or scalloped projections or saw-like margin. Rather densely hairy beneath (with stiff hairs). Leaves sometimes with elongated, linear lobes	Flowers greenish-yellow. Outer petals not or only slightly radiate. Rays of umbels with scattered small hairs, almost smooth. 12-25 rays	Fruit egg-shaped; 7-8 mm long, 5-6 mm wide. Smooth. Conspicuous, but narrow oil ducts that do not reach the fruit base	North-eastern and central-eastern Europe as well as central and south-west France

Features of species that may be mistaken for hogweeds

	Plant species	Height (cm)	Stem	Leaf	Flower	Fruit	Distribution
Other species	Wild Parsnip <i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	50-180	Edged-ridged stem, usually glabrous to slightly hairy near stem base, with short, soft hairs	Hairless and somewhat glistened. Lower leaves simply pinnate. Lance-shaped leaflets with a v-shaped base, segments with saw-like margin	Yellow flowers (July-August). Regularly outer flowers. Sepals absent	Fruit oval and dorsally much compressed. Conspicuous, but narrow oil ducts	Most of Europe except the Arctic, but only as an escape from cultivation in parts of the north
	Wild Angelica <i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	50-200	Round and hairless stem, sometimes purplish to whitish (like frost; pruinose), upper parts slightly ridged, usually with dense, short hairs below the umbels	Leaves 2- to 3-pinnate, hairless. Base of leaf stalk inflated. Blades of upper leaves very small or absent	White-pinkish flowers (July-August). Umbels flat to strongly convex. Sepals minute, regularly outer flowers	Egg-shaped, smooth and dorsally much compressed. Oil ducts are small and reach the fruit base	Common across Europe
	Garden Angelica <i>Angelica archangelica</i>	100-230	Hairless, green or often purplish to whitish stem, slightly ridged	Leaves 2- to 3-pinnate, deeply toothed and often irregularly lobed. Usually hairless on both sides	Greenish flowers (June-August). Terminal umbel as well as compound umbels strongly convex to globose. Regularly outer flowers	Egg-shaped, smooth and dorsally slightly compressed. Oil ducts not visible	Naturalised in north and east Europe
	Greater Water Parsnip <i>Sium latifolium</i>	50-180	Strongly grooved, always hairless stem	Submerged leaves with capillate lobes, present only in spring. Aerial leaves simply pinnate, with 3-6 pairs of leaflets, lance shaped to oval, with saw-like margins	White flowers (July-August). Umbel flat, regularly outer flowers	Fruit smooth and elliptical, laterally compressed. Oil ducts are small and reach the fruit base	Found across most of Europe although it is rare near the Mediterranean region
	Cabbage Thistle <i>Cirsium oleraceum</i>	50-160	Hairless below	Lower leaves pinnately lobed (not divided into leaflets), finely toothed. Entire upper leaves (no lobes). Leaves at ground level can be mistaken for Giant Hogweed	White-yellowish flowers in capitula surrounded by large leaves		Much of Europe but not the islands