

SAFETY ALERT

Giant Hogweed

Document No: IW-HSQE-SA-35

Approved By: Nicola Cawley

Revision: 1.00

Effective Date: 29/07/2019

1. What Happened?

Two separate incidents have occurred in the last number of months where an operative came into contact with the sap of a Giant Hogweed while carrying out routine maintenance resulting in rashes and blistering of the skin.

2. Further Actions

Giant Hogweed contains large amounts of poisonous sap, which, on contact with the skin and in the presence of sunlight, causes severe irritation, swelling and painful watery blisters.

Giant Hogweed can easily be confused with the harmless Common Hogweed. Giant Hogweed stands 3-5m tall, with leaves 1.5-3m wide, flower heads up to 75cm across, and stems up to 10cm in diameter with dark red/purple blotches. Common Hogweed grows to 2m in height, with much smaller flower heads (to 15cm).



Common Hogweed



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Do's:

- Immediately stop all work near to the suspect plant and contact your line manager for instructions if you think you have identified Giant Hogweed on your site.
- Immediately mark off the area to prevent access.
- If you think you've come into contact with giant hogweed, wash off exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water and protect the exposed skin from the sun and seek medical advice immediately.

Don't:

- Don't handle the plant until further advice is taken.
- Do not attempt to remove, cut back or disturb the plant.
- Don't move the soil that may contain seeds without specific instructions.

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3. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact hsqe@water.ie

For further information on Giant Hogweed please refer to IW-AMT-GL-001 Irish Water Guidance on the Management of Giant Hogweed.

Distribution list

Internal		
Asset Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management <input type="checkbox"/>
All IW Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		

External		
Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital Contracts <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant _____	Framework _____	Contractors _____
Please Specify _____		
Other Please Specify _____		