

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 22

Giant Hogweed Control

Giant Hogweed is a large non-native species capable of spreading rapidly along riverbanks. During control works, it is important to ensure that no damage to species of conservation value occurs and that colonisation to new areas is prevented.

Aim

To prevent giant hogweed becoming dominant and out-competing native plants and to prevent it spreading to new areas.

Environmental Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Existing stands could increase in size outcompeting native species	High	Control existing stands
Damage to other plants though the use of glyphosate	Medium	Refer to ESOP 15.
Failing to control before seeds ripen	High	Ensure control measures conducted before flowers set to seed



WARNING – The sap of giant hogweed contains a toxic chemical which can cause severe blistering when exposed to sunlight. **ALWAYS WEAR APPROPRIATE PPE.**

Delivery Method

- Spot spraying with glyphosate during the growing season.
- Any plants that have flowered or are likely to flower must be de-headed before seeds are produced.

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Standard Procedure

- If new small outbreaks occur in priority areas, it should be eliminated immediately, spot treat with herbicide (See ESOP 15).
- Stands of Giant Hogweed growth adjacent to public footpaths and rivers should be treated as a priority.
- Spot spraying with glyphosate should commence in early spring when new plants have begun to grow. A dose rate of 6 l/ha⁻¹ is sufficient to kill treated vegetation.
- Sections should be treated at least three times during the growing season.
- Any plants that have flowered or are likely to flower must be de-headed before seeds are produced.
- The cut umbels must be removed securely from the area and burnt in a controlled environment. The plant should be sprayed again with glyphosate or it will attempt to flower again and set seed.
- Continue to check for re-growth and spread, until one whole year after no re-growth is seen.

Consultation Required

- Environment Agency – when glyphosate method is used contact EA and fill out a AqHerb01 form (Refer to ESOP 15)
- Natural England – works within SSSI's

Further Information

http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sci_programmes/documents/GiantHogweed.pdf

<http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies/gianthogweed.aspx>