

**OSWEGO COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**2015
Giant Hogweed Control Program**

This year's Oswego County control program was part of a state-wide effort through a partnership with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and funded by a federal grant (NY-13-DG-11420004-065) through the US Forest Service

Based upon the 2014 control season, the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District put together a Request for Proposals (RFP) to chemically control Giant Hogweed in Oswego as well as Cayuga Counties for 2015. This request was sent out in early March, having a response date of March 27th. The contractor (Chase Enterprises, Inc.) was then selected in April of 2015.

A contracted figure of \$7,060.56 was limited to Oswego County sites only. For additional chemical treatment performed in Cayuga County an extra \$1,000.00 was made available, bringing the total figure for chemical control to \$8,060.56.

Additionally, there was an expenditure agreement to perform mechanical (mowing) control in the amount of \$1,500.00, which was delegated in controlling three solid acres of Giant Hogweed.

By the Numbers

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total # of sites:	63	56
Oswego Co. sites:	57	50
Cayuga Co. sites:	6 (one site being mowed)	6 (one site being mowed)

Geographical break out of the sites:

Oswego County Municipality

	<u>'15</u>	<u>'14</u>
Town of Oswego:	16	13
City of Oswego:	10	7
Town of New Haven:	9	7
Town of Hannibal:	9	9
Town of Scriba:	7	7
Town of Mexico:	3	4
Town of Minetto:	1	1
Town of S. Creek:	1	1
Town of W. Monroe:	1	1

Cayuga County Municipality

Town of Sterling:	5	5
Town of Ira:	1	1

Size of site according to number of plants:

	<u>'15</u>	<u>'14</u>
<u>Plant #s</u>	<u># of Sites</u>	<u># of Sites</u>
Zero	22	4
1-19	14	29
20-99	11	12
100-299	9	1
300-999	1	8
1,000+	6	2

Control program began on May 28th and ended on July 17th.

The solid three acres of mowed Giant hogweed was mowed four times during 2015.

During the course of the 2015 control season, the NYS DEC provided Oswego County with new educational information regarding Giant hogweed. They were either in poster or brochure forms, with their respective distribution located below.

Two formal educational presentations were provided to others about GH and the control program.

New Poster Distribution

Oswego Town - one small
Granby Town - one small and one large
Hannibal Town - one small
USDA and CCE county offices - one small, one large & small
Farm Tractor Stores (Oswego & Fulton) - one small, each
Granby Wal-Mart - one small
Scriba Town - one small
Chase Enterprises Inc. - one large
New Haven Town - one large
Mexico Town - one small
Palermo Town - one small
City of Fulton - one small
Volney Town - one small, one large
Schroeppel Town - two small
Oswego SWCD office - two large
NYS Park/Selkirk Shores - one large, one small
Oswego County Highway Department - four small posters
Individual Sportsmen's Clubs - numerous posters on 4-18-15
Douglaston Salmon Run - one large poster, 6-18-15

New GH Brochure Distribution

Oswego Yakkers (kayak group) - 25 brochures w/presentation on April 15th
Oswego County Highway Department - 80 brochures
Oswego County Federation of Sportsmen's Club - many brochures w/presentation on April 18th
Oswego County Fair Display - July
Chase Enterprises Inc. - 20 brochures
NYS/DEC Salmon River Hatchery - 80 brochures



How well can you play -
Hide & Seek?

Sometimes difficult to locate along
mowed highway ROWs.

A mature 3 or 4
year old GH
plant, with its
surrounding
siblings of large
green leaves.



Here again...
well hidden along
the road ROW.

A tall hedge makes
it difficult to spot
when smaller and
easier to control.



One of many
'umbrels' of
one GH plant,
up close.

How many
seeds can you
count?

An umbrel in
the
background
still in flower
stage.

A three acre field
of pure Giant
Hogweed!

No chemicals
allowed for
control.

Second year of
mechanical
control of
mowing.



Taking the
necessary
precautionary
measures for
protection:

jump suit,
gloves,
helmet, and
boots

Wash down the
equipment!!!

Soil and Water district controls giant hogweed

The Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) will be entering its fourth season of controlling the highly toxic invasive species Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) in Oswego County.

Giant hogweed is native to the Caucasus region of Eurasia. The plant was introduced to Great Britain in the 19th century. It was later transported to the United States and Canada as a showpiece in large, grand gardens at the time. In fact, one of the plant's first North American plantings was in gardens near Highland Park in the City of Rochester, NY. The plant looks like Queen Anne's Lace on steroids. It grows between 8-14 feet tall with two-inch thick stems resembling bamboo, flowers two or more feet across and leaves that are lobed, deeply cut and up to five feet across.

Giant hogweed was a favorite for bee keepers due to the size of its flower heads (umbrels), as well as for the seeds that can be dried and used as a spice in cooking. Giant hogweed is also a public health hazard because of its toxic oil that can cause second or even third degree burns; and blindness, if accidentally introduced into the eyes. These burns are light sensitive, meaning that they can remain persistent and reoccur for a number of years.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has supported Oswego County's



Michael Noto, private property owner standing next to a mature Giant hogweed plant - Oswego County.

control program through a federally funded grant from the US Forest Service agency. This grant has allowed the district to hire a certified applicator to treat and

control giant hogweed. The plants are currently emerging throughout Oswego County, primarily from Interstate Route 81 Corridor, westward to the county line with

Cayuga County. Some thirty-five sites will be treated, as well as another fifteen sites will be monitored in 2015.

Individual property owners can control Giant hogweed on their own with caution and proper knowledge of care. For further control information please visit the website: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html.

There are many look alikes of giant hogweed that grow in Oswego County. Should you happen to

stumble across one or see one from a distance, you may want to report it for further identification and possible control at the Giant Hogweed Hotline 1-845-256-3111.

For more natural resource information including Giant hogweed contact the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District at 592-9663 or stop in at 3105 State Route 3 (Volney) - Fulton; or visit us at www.oswegosoilandwater.com.