

# COW PARSNIP

VS

# HOGWEED

local plant

problematic invasive

It's spring/summer and I see white flowers,  
is that Hogweed?

Blooms in **May - late June**

Blooms in **late June - July**

How else do you tell them apart?

## Flowers

White flowers,  
clusters are 1' wide  
with 15-30 rays  
**flat-topped**



White flowers,  
clusters are 2.5' wide  
with 50-150 rays  
**shaped like an  
umbrella**

## Stems



- Predominantly **green** (can have some purple coloring)
- 1-2" diameter
- Fine white hairs

- Green with **purple splotches**
- 2-4" diameter
- Hairy, coarse white hairs at the base of leaf stalks



Scan for  
more info!



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## What harm can it do?

- Contact with this plant CAN cause a rash or burn
- You must break the plant tissue to come in contact with the toxic sap

- Contact with this plant causes severe rashes, burns, and blistering
- Just brushing up against the plant can transfer the toxic sap onto ourselves or our gear

## Aren't both plants invasive?

- Evolved in this ecosystem, so it has a balance and important role
- Provides food for pollinators
- The largest member of the carrot family that evolved in U.S.

- Evolved elsewhere AND it causes harm to humans and our ecosystem so it is invasive
- Outcompetes other plants that are better food sources

## I see this plant everywhere...

Cow Parsnip is widely found across Vermont, often most noticeable along roadways

Hogweed is rare in Vermont, with only a handful of confirmed locations across the state

If you suspect you've seen hogweed, please report this early detection invasive plant

**REPORT IT!**  
**VTinvasives.org**