

Giant Hogweed
(Heracleum mantegazzianum)

Eradication Project

Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board

Contract Number: K3176

2022 Report

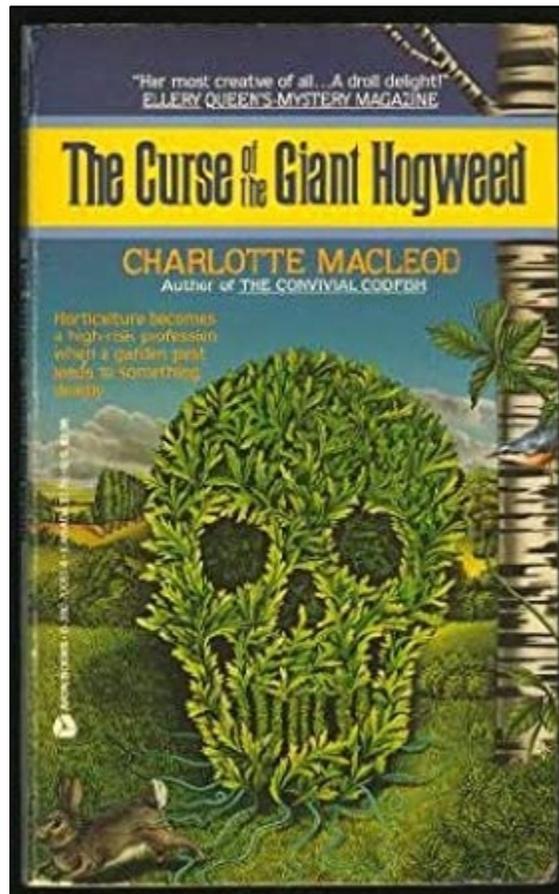
Report compiled by
Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board
Kela Hall-Wieckert, Program Coordinator

January 5th, 2023

303 N. 4th St
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 extension 592

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Cover of The Curse of the Giant Hogweed by Charlotte Macleod, written in 1985.

Caption reads, "Horticulture becomes a high-risk profession when a garden pest leads to something deadly."

Introduction

Since 2007, the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board (MCNWCB) has prioritized control and eradication of giant hogweed, a Class-A and federally listed noxious weed species. Grant funding supplements county resources to support surveys for giant hogweed, initiate property owner contacts, and provide control assistance. On October 29, 2021, Contract No. K3176 was amended to extend the timeframe for MCNWCB to carry out continued giant hogweed control. In 2022, the extended contract provided funding to complete follow-up control at sites that were identified to have active giant hogweed infestations during the 2021 field season. Additionally, staff surveyed and treated giant hogweed at two newly identified sites.

Giant Hogweed Accomplishments

- 4 property owners renewed their Mason County Waiver of Liability permissions. Staff obtained new permissions from 5 property owners. New permissions include a property owner at a newly identified site in Tahuya, two property owners at a new site on Harstine Island, one property owner above an existing site along shoreline, and one property owner notoriously difficult to contact at a known site along Highway 106.



Staff deadhead 5 large giant hogweed plants at 32234-34-XXXXX after making in-person contact with this landowner. Staff hope to gain permission to treat this site in the 2023 field season.

- MCNWCB staff completed giant hogweed control on 16 parcels owned by 14 landowners. Treatment consisted of foliar application of Garlon 3A (triclopyr TEA), injection of Roundup Custom (glyphosate), and/or manual control by deadheading. Due to the proximity to water, many of the treatments were made under NPDES permit. Repeat treatments were completed during the season at several sites due to the size and accessibility of the infestations.
- MCNWCB staff made in-person contact with a reluctant landowner with a large infestation of giant hogweed. While the landowner did eventually sign a waiver, it was too late in the season to chemically treat the giant hogweed, so staff opted to deadhead plants to prevent seed production. See “Difficulties” for more information.
- A concerned landowner on Harstine Island sent photos of giant hogweed to the Mason County Noxious Weed Control program. Staff educated the landowner about the impacts of the noxious weed and explained how the program controls giant hogweed. The landowner, as well as their neighbor who had a few plants on their property, gave permission to treat. A return visit found no plants to treat. Staff will monitor the success of treatment in 2023 and offer control if plants are found.

See Table 1 for summarized accomplishments.

Difficulties

- Staff continue to find or receive reports of new giant hogweed infestations. This year, new infestations consisted of isolated patches planted as ornamentals and reported by property owners. Other sites, often consisting of a single, frequently blooming plant, continue to be found downstream of previously known infestations. Staff remain vigilant and respond rapidly to new infestations.
- A landowner that is notoriously difficult to contact finally signed a waiver this field season, but it was too late to chemically treat. Additionally, the landowner is reluctant for herbicide to be used and staff will need to regain permission in the 2023 season. Staff will initiate contact early in order to have enough time to gain permission prior to the treatment window.
- Change in property ownership requires staff to contact new owners, and sometimes requires persistent cajoling to regain permission to treat. While this is a difficulty in terms of time and resource use, it provides an opportunity for staff to expand their educational impact on the harmful effects of giant hogweed as new residents move to Mason County.

Conclusion

2023 recommendations:

- Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program will submit a proposal for WSDA funding in 2023 to support continued giant hogweed treatments.
- Staff are considering sending out mailers early in the 2023 season to confirm continued absence at historic giant hogweed infestations as well as educate new Mason County residents on the impacts of giant hogweed and gain their permission to treat. Additionally, given that the program continues to find and receive reports of new infestations, staff will consider hosting a workshop on giant hogweed identification, impacts, and control.
- Prioritize surveys and treatments along the Tahuya River, where in 2021 a giant hogweed plant was found by Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) staff. This plant was deadheaded during the 2021 field season, but MCNWCB staff did not return in 2022.
- Contact landowners who did not give permissions to treat this year (or gave permission too late) early in the 2023 season in order to have permission granted prior to treatment window.

Currently, 19 property owners, owning 23 parcels, have granted the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program permission to treat giant hogweed. WSDA funding allows program staff to dedicate more time and resources to offer control to landowners and to eradicate infestations. As expected, sites that have been treated historically are reducing in size and are requiring much less effort, herbicide, and time. With the continued support of WSDA funding, the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board can continue to maintain and expand its giant hogweed eradication efforts.

Table 1. Summary of 2022 Giant Hogweed Activities

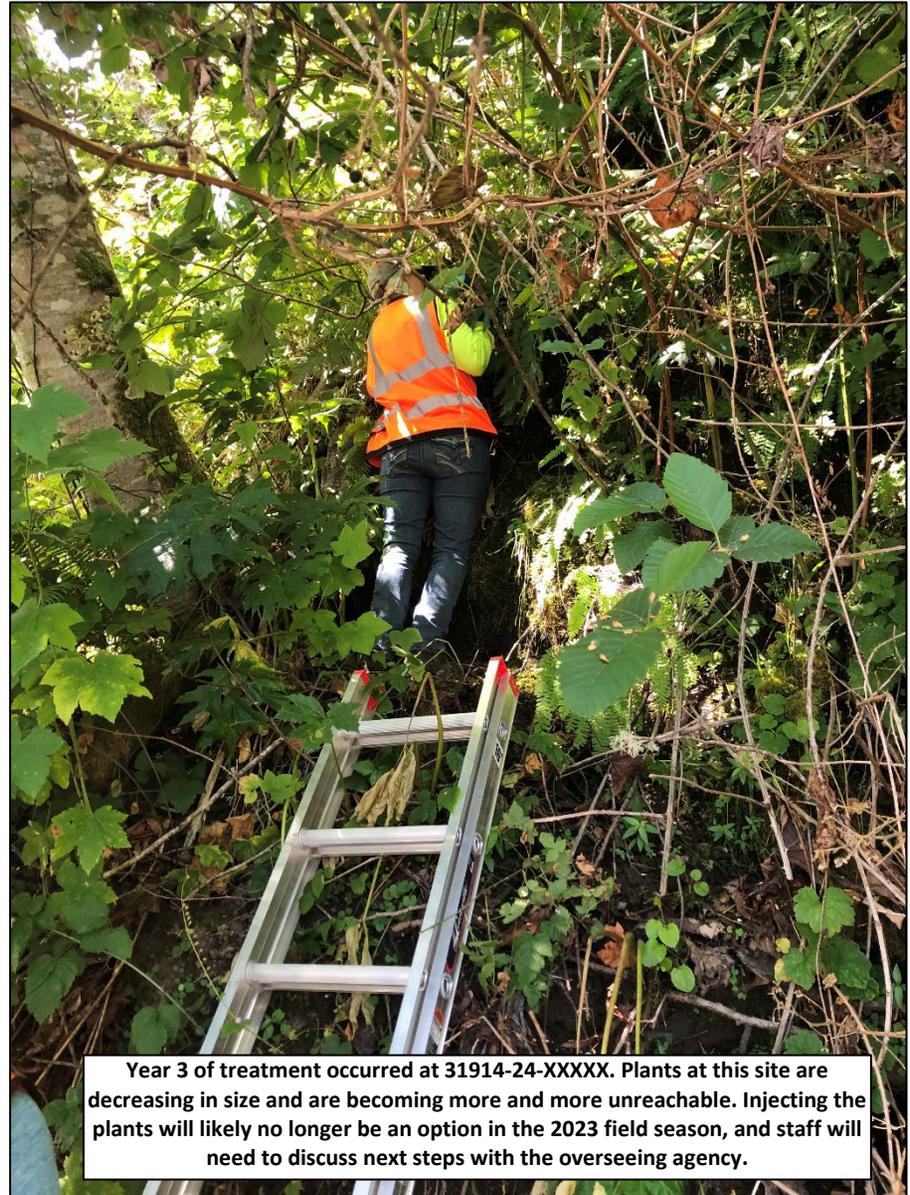
May 7, 2022 – August 16, 2022

PIN No.	Type of Landowner	Date of Survey	Acres Surveyed	Date of Control	Type of Control	Presence /Absence	Solid Acres	Comments
32029-32-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	5/7/22	Foliar	Present	0.001	
32219-50-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	5/10/22	Foliar	Present	0.02	New permission and new site reported by landowner
32030-41-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	5/17/22	Foliar	Present	0.001	Renter called early in season to report seedlings. Staff followed up with control.
32029-51-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	6/1/22	Foliar	Present	0.0009	
31914-20-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	6/8/22	Foliar	Present	0.0005	
32219-50-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	6/22/22	Foliar	Present	0.02	New permission and new site reported by landowner
42116-41-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	7/1/22	Foliar	Present	0.008	
42116-44-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	7/1/22	Foliar	Present	0.003	
32029-51-XXXXX	Tribal	n/a	n/a	7/6/22	Injection	Present	0.0002	
31914-10-XXXXX	Tribal	n/a	n/a	7/6/22	Injection	Present	0.006	
31914-24-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	7/6/22	Injection	Present	0.006	
32024-22-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	7/7/22	Foliar	Present	0.0004	
32023-11-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	7/7/22	Foliar	Present	0.0003	
32024-00-XXXXX	Public	n/a	n/a	7/7/22	Foliar	Present	0.001	
22014-20-XXXXX	Private	6/28/22	1.55	7/7/22	Foliar	Present	0.03	New permission and new site reported by landowner
22014-21-XXXXX	Private	7/6/22	1.59	7/7/22	Injection	Present	0.03	New permission and new site reported by landowner
32015-43-XXXXX	Private	7/7/22	0.06	n/a	n/a	Present	n/a	Staff sent enforcement letter same day as survey. Landowner treated plants themselves.
32234-34-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	7/18/22	Manual	Present	0.003	New permission; plants already began to senesce. 2023 Priority
31914-24-XXXXX	Tribal	n/a	n/a	7/21/22	Injection	Present	0.01	
32029-51-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	7/25/22	Foliar	Present	0.005	
31914-24-XXXXX	Tribal	n/a	n/a	8/16/22	Injection	Present	0.002	
42211-41-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Absent	n/a	Landowner called to confirm absence
32025-50-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Absent	n/a	Landowner called confirmed absence
32018-44-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Unknown	n/a	Unsuccessful in obtaining a waiver. 2023 priority
31929-00-XXXXX	Public	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Absent	n/a	WSDOT called to confirm absence
42112-00-XXXXX	Public	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Absent	n/a	WSDOT called to confirm absence
12320-13-XXXXX	Private	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Unknown	n/a	Unsuccessful in obtaining a waiver. 2023 priority
TOTAL		3.2 acres surveyed			0.15 solid acres treated			

Appendix 1. Selected Giant Hogweed Photos

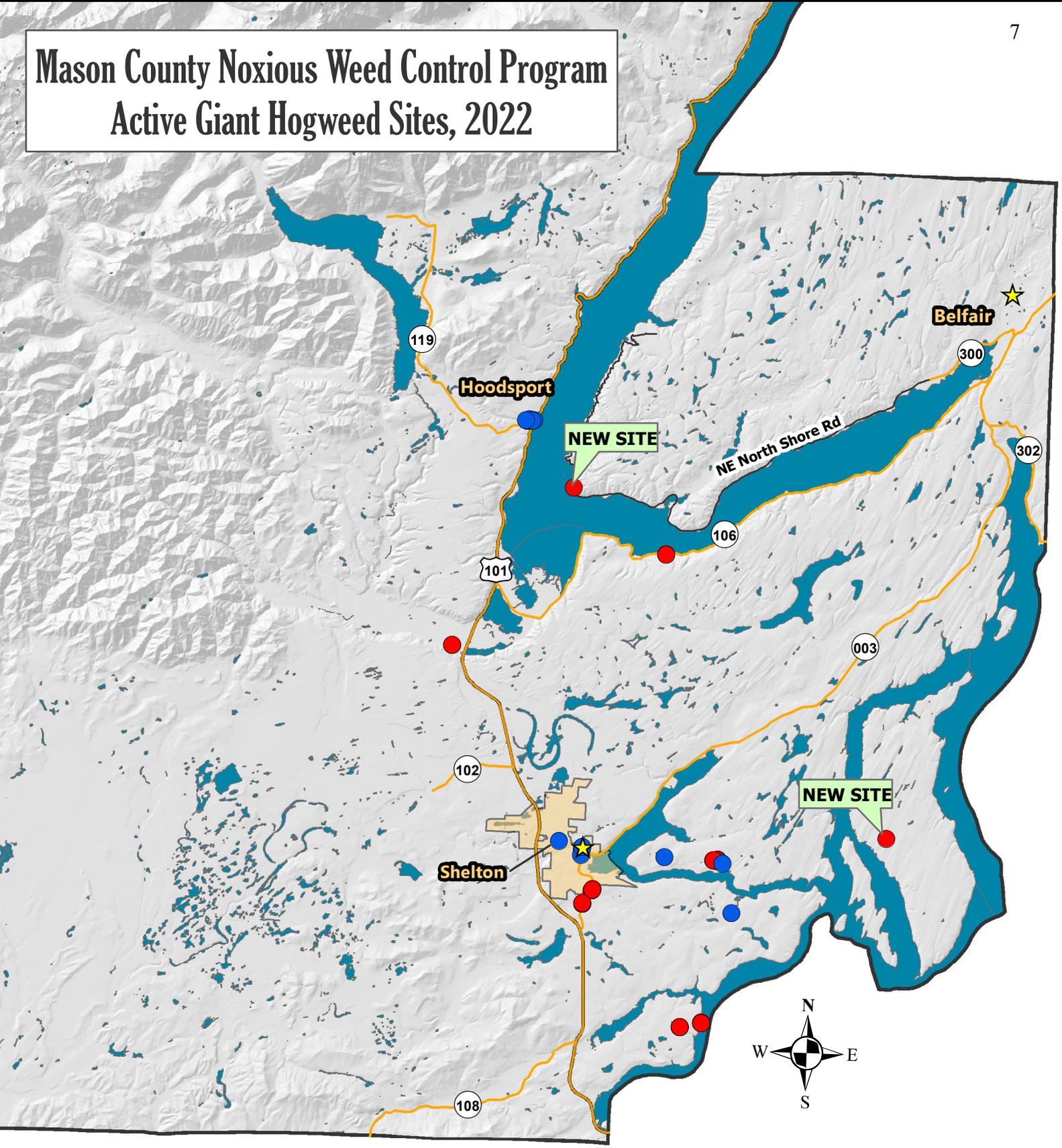


A giant hogweed plant on the edge of a pasture at 42116-44-XXXXX. This is year 2 of treatment at this site, and there were significantly less plants this season. Staff will visit again next year.



Year 3 of treatment occurred at 31914-24-XXXXX. Plants at this site are decreasing in size and are becoming more and more unreachable. Injecting the plants will likely no longer be an option in the 2023 field season, and staff will need to discuss next steps with the overseeing agency.

Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program Active Giant Hogweed Sites, 2022



- ### Legend
- **2022 Active Giant Hogweed Sites (27)**
 - **2021-22 Inactive Giant Hogweed Sites (20)**
 - ★ **No Survey or Treatment in 2022 (2)**

.Shp Files Available upon Request
 Created by Kela Hall-Wieckert on 12/30/2022

Site at 32018-44-XXXXX (Shelton area) is suspected to have few lingering plants, but MCNWCB staff have been unable to contact this landowner. 2023 Priority

Site at 12320-12-XXXXX (Belfair area) was discovered late in the 2021 season. MCNWCB staff have not yet gained permission to treat at this site. 2023 Priority

New sites are likely the result of ornamental plantings and were reported by prop. owners.

