

Giant Hogweed spraying in the Dunblane area May-June 2015



This is what a mature plant looks like.

I have spent many days in the months of May and June this year spraying large patches of Giant Hogweed in and around Dunblane. This is the third year, in the last two years I have concentrated on the areas that the public use on a regular basis mainly in the Laighills park. There was a large unsprayed area that has been done this year which is a favourite area for dog walkers.

This year most of the effort has been to spray large areas on the west of the Allanwater and rail line, these are not generally accessed by the public but provide the seeds that spread to other areas. Not all areas have been sprayed but will be next year.

One issue is the plants that are growing on the railway embankments. Network Rail have been asked in each of the last three years to spray and they have failed. This year SNH have asked them to spray but no sign of that having been done yet, I will continue to try to get them to do this because unless it is done there is a continuous seed source. Seed can survive up to ten years in the soil so spraying is not just a one off job.

There is a horrific story today of the damage that Giant Hogweed can do you your skin if you touch the plant and get the sap on your skin. This link takes you to that article. <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/hogweed-salford-bolton-plant-toxic-9620900>



This is the reason I go out and spend considerable time trying to eliminate this very dangerous plant. Stay away from them please, there are very few left in the Laighills park but there are small plants growing in the area I sprayed there this year, these will be sprayed next year.

Please avoid any that you see no matter what size the plants are.

Terence O'Byrne. 9th July 2015