

# Invasive Plant Management Strategy

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What are Invasive Plants?**

**A:** Invasive Plants are plants that have been moved from their native habitat to an introduced area where they are able to reproduce quickly and crowd out native species. These plants impact Muskoka by resulting in economic, ecological and/or social disruption including health risks like those of the Giant Hogweed plant. These plants were introduced and spread by human activity like horticulture/gardening and transportation and natural process like wind and river/stream flows of seeds.

### **Q: Why are herbicides being applied to this vegetation?**

**A:** Invasive Plants are identified as presenting risks to human health, private and municipal infrastructures and to the ecosystem as a whole. Surveys along roadsides have identified over 300 locations in Muskoka alone, where these plants have become established. The recommended Best Management Practices for controlling these plants includes the use of herbicides.

### **Q: Is using herbicide the most efficient and successful way to manage these plants?**

**A:** Yes. It has been established that the use of the appropriate herbicide is the only efficient way to destroy the root structure of these plants. The District follows practices and removal techniques as recommended by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

### **Q: How is the herbicide applied to the roadsides?**

**A:** Herbicides are applied in a prudent manner, in an appropriate season, and in consultation with environmental experts. The District utilizes certified and provincially-licensed firms to apply approved herbicides. Application methods, such as "spot spraying" are utilized to manage these plants while protecting other potential receptors such as nearby plants and animals.



**Q: What time of year is herbicide applied?**

**A:** Giant Hogweed is managed in the late spring and early summer due to its human health impacts. Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed are managed in the late summer and early fall to reduce conflicts with the growing and breeding plants and animals, including Species at Risk.

**Q: How is the public notified about herbicide roadside application?**

**A:** The District's approved contractor is mandated to provide written notice to occupants within thirty (30) metres of a proposed herbicide application, prior to the application. The District publishes the road names where herbicide application may take place.

**Q: Can I stop the municipality from applying herbicides in front of my house?**

**A:** Please contact the District of Muskoka at 705.645.6764 if you receive a notification and do not wish to be included in the eradication efforts.

**Q: Where can I get more information?**

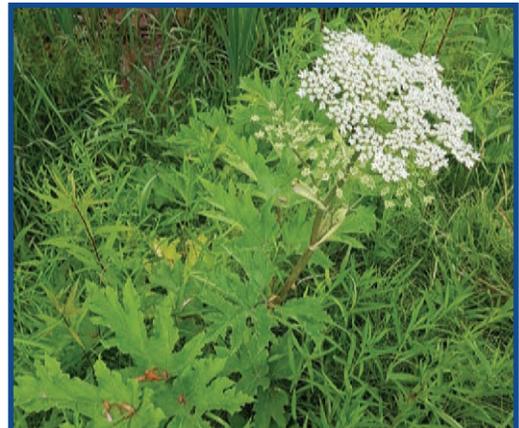
**A:** The District has established a webpage with more information on this program at [www.muskoka.on.ca](http://www.muskoka.on.ca). Additional resources include [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca), [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com) and [ontario.ca/invasivespecies](http://ontario.ca/invasivespecies)



**Invasive Phragmites**



**Invasive Japanese Knotweed**



**Invasive Giant Hogweed**

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