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Agriculture Development Branch

Date: September 10, 2010
To: Area and Municipal Weed Inspectors
From: Mike Cowbrough
Chief Inspector, Weed Control Act

Subject: Designation of Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) as a noxious weed under the *Weed Control Act* R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER W.5

Regulation 1096 of the *Weed Control Act* has been amended by adding Giant Hogweed as a noxious weed in Ontario. Over the past five years we have discussed this weed at our annual Weed Inspector's Conference and although to date, the impact of Giant Hogweed on Ontario's agricultural operations has been limited, we want to keep it that way. This noxious weed designation increases the awareness of this species and provides greater assurances that its impact to agricultural land will be minimized. This designation also complements the efforts already being taken by many municipalities to minimize the impact of this weed.

This change to the regulations of the *Weed Control Act* and its implications will be addressed at the upcoming Weed Inspector's Conference in April of 2011. I look forward to seeing you there. In the interim, I would like to make you aware of several information resources that are available for the identification and management of Giant Hogweed:

- Citizens requiring plant identification can call the Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.
- Weed Inspectors seeking plant identification can use the services provided at www.ontarioweeds.com
- Our Ministry has a series of instructional videos outlining identification and management strategies at www.ontario.ca/hogweed
- The University of Guelph and our Ministry are collaborating on a project to identify best management practices. A summary of first year results will be posted at www.ontario.ca/hogweed and www.ontarioweeds.com

Should you have any questions concerning this change to the *Weed Control Act*, feel free to contact me directly.



Mike Cowbrough
Chief Inspector, Weed Control Act

