

Tompkins County Highway



Adopt-A-Highway Program and Safety Guidelines

Table of Contents

Program Overview	Page 2
• Program Guidelines	Page 3
• Safety Guidelines	Page 4
• Illegal Dump Sites	Page 5
• General Release Form	Page 6
• Important Contact Information	Page 7
• Roadside Cleanup Checklist	Page 8
Harmful Plants	Page 9
• Cow Parsnip	Page 10
• Wild Parsnip	Page 12
• Stinging Nettle	Page 14
• Poison Ivy	Page 16
• Giant Hogweed	Page 18
Tick Bites and Lyme Disease	Page 23
• Understanding Tick Bites and Lyme Disease	Page 24
• Ticks Found In New York State	Page 26
Meth Lab Debris	Page 27
• Local Law Enforcement Contact Information	Page 28
• How to Recognize a Meth Lab	Page 29
Reference Material	Page 36

Program Overview



Tompkins County Highway Department 170
Bostwick Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
Office : 607-274-0300
adoptahighway@tompkins-co.org

TOMPKINS COUNTY ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. Any non-profit or profit-making non-partisan organization or group may enter into an Adopt-A-Highway Agreement.
2. The organization/group will be permitted to perform roadside maintenance activities, including litter pickup, mowing, brush and tree trimming, and planting and maintaining approved vegetation. The County Highway Director may modify this list as needed to accommodate specific situations.
3. The Agreement is for a two-year (2) period.
4. The organization/group may adopt any section of highway. The normal minimum length of highway adopted is one (1) mile.
5. The minimum age of participants without adult supervision is 16 years. One adult supervisor will be provided by the organization for every six (6) minors between the ages of 12 and 16, and one adult supervisor for every three (3) minors between the ages of 10 and 12.
6. The organization will place trash bags along the adopted highway to be picked up and disposed of by Tompkins County Highway forces on the next working day. (Trash bags will be provided by Tompkins County Highway Department.) The Organization will call 274-0300 the first business day following the cleanup activity with detailed information regarding the quantity and locations of the bags.
7. The suggested minimum frequency of pickup along highways is two (2) times per year, with the first pickup occurring in April-May "Spring Cleanup" time period.
8. **All** participants will sign the General Release Form.
9. Tompkins County Highway Department will install an Adopt-A-Highway sign at the beginning of each section of highway.
10. The Department will publicize the execution of each Agreement, and will highlight it at various periods thereafter.
11. The County Highway Director will be the Department's contact with the organization, and will manage the Agreement after it is signed. The Organization will be required to designate one (1) member as Coordinator.
12. Participants will receive a safety briefing by the County Highway Director, or designee, prior to the first roadside maintenance activity. Thereafter, the safety guidelines will be reviewed with the Organization by the designated organization coordinator before each pickup. All participants must attend a safety briefing before participating in the cleanup efforts.
13. All participants are required to wear a traffic safety vest and hard hat (provided by the Tompkins County Highway Department). Work signs will also be provided and utilized as outlined by the County Highway Director, or designee.



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TOMPKINS COUNTY ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Organization will be familiar with the terms of Adopt-A-Highway Agreement and General Release Form.
2. All participants must:
 - a) Attend safety briefing prior to each pickup.
 - b) **Wear traffic vests correctly.**
 - c) Sign General Release Form (original must be on file with Tompkins County Highway prior to participation).
3. General Safety:
 - a) **Stay alert for traffic at all times.**
 - b) Gloves (not provided) are recommended to protect against sharp objects and contamination from dirty objects, or poisonous plants (i.e. poison ivy, poison oak, giant hogweed), etc.
 - c) Worker signs must be open and flags attached during the pick-up phase. At the completion of the pick-up phase, the signs must be closed and secured, and the flags must be removed (if applicable).
 - d) Adequate footwear (not provided) shall be worn.
 - e) Debris pick-up from the roadway performed **only** if no traffic is present or completely stopped. Always work off the roadway, and if debris cannot be retrieved safely, do not attempt it.
 - f) Vehicles must be parked in a manner that will not interfere with visibility at an intersection or private driveway.



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For guidance and assistance for Adopt-A-Highway participants in the event anyone comes across quantities of materials that he/she thinks have been deliberately discarded. That person or organization should contact the Tompkins County Solid Waste Division – Seth Dennis, that day or the next business day. The material should be left on-site until it can be inspected.

In the event anyone comes across material/liquids that could be potentially hazardous, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) should be contacted immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact the agencies listed below.

Tompkins County Solid Waste Division

Seth Dennis

(607) 273-6632

NYSDEC Oil Spill Response Team

1 (800) 457-7362



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Bostwick Road
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Office : 607-274-0300
adoptahighway@tompkins-co.org

For new participants only

APPENDIX A

Tompkins County Adopt-A-Highway General Release

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENCE, that I, _____ (print name), as a Member/ Employee of _____ (Organization/Group) in consideration of \$1.00 (One Dollar) payment, of which payment is hereby waived, and other good and valuable consideration given by the Tompkins County Department of Public Works and its officers and employees, their representatives, successors and assigns from all causes of action, controversial, claims, judgements or liabilities I may now have or may hereafter have against said County Departments and its officers and employees arising out of my participation in the Adopt-A-Highway Program developed by the Commissioner of Public Works pursuant to Resolution 127 (dated April 21, 1992) of the County Board of Representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this release on _____, 20__.

Member / Employee Address: _____

Member / Employee Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 16 yrs old): _____



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adoptahighway@tompkins-co.org

Important Contact Information

Tompkins County Sheriff's Department

(607) 272-2444

New York State Police

(607) 347-4440

(607) 273-4671 (Chief)

Tompkins County Highway Department

(607) 274-0300

Tompkins County Solid Waste Division

(607) 273-6632

Giant Hogweed Hotline

1-845-256-3111



Roadside Cleanup Checklist



Required:

- General Release Forms signed and returned to the Tompkins County Highway Department for new participants



- Safety meeting with participants before roadside cleanup event
- Safety vests
- Sturdy, closed-toes shoes



Suggested:

- Adopt-A-Highway Program and Safety guidelines
- Work gloves
- Hard hats
- Tall socks
- Long pants
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Water
- Cell phone



Harmful Plants

Cow Parsnip

Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*) is native to North America. It grows in a variety of habitats including woodlands, forest openings, grasslands, stream and river edges and along roadsides. Sap contains a phototoxin that reacts with ultraviolet light to cause skin irritation ranging from a mild rash to severe blistering.

Identification

It is a biennial, flowering in its second year with a flower stem that may grow more than 6 feet tall. The flower head, made up of numerous small white flowers, is close to a foot across. And the leaves can be almost 2 feet wide. Even the dried seed heads look imposing.

First year plants grow basal rosettes (low clusters of leaves growing directly from the roots) of big coarse hairy leaves divided into 3 deeply lobed leaflets. The leaves have more rounded lobes than the more deeply cut leaves of giant hogweed which usually have more pointed lobes.

Cow parsnip is a big plant and it's easy to believe that it could be hogweed. However, hogweed isn't just big; it's unbelievably huge, a tree-sized herbaceous plant. For a comparison of giant hogweed and cow parsnip, see the DEC web page on giant hogweed identification.



Where is cow parsnip located?

Cow parsnip is relatively uncommon in New York, and tends to be found more often in the cooler parts of the state. Typical habitats are usually near water and in rich, moist soil, often along stream banks, in meadows, and in wet ditches. It also grows well in partial shade along roads, and in floodplain forests. It blooms earlier than giant hogweed, in late May to late June.

If you see a very tall plant with a big flat white flower head, or a basal rosette of very large, hairy leaves (bigger than rhubarb leaves) growing in damp soil, stay clear. However, it is far easier to avoid this conspicuously large plant than it is to avoid the increasingly common wild parsnip which also inflicts nasty burns.

Why is cow parsnip dangerous?

Possibly the biggest problem with cow parsnip is its close resemblance to giant hogweed. This can alarm people unnecessarily if they find cow parsnip plants, but fear that they are the much more dangerous giant hogweed.



Cow parsnip sap, like that of giant hogweed, contains furanocoumarins (fyur-a-no-coo-MAR-inz), phototoxic chemicals which are activated by ultraviolet rays in sunlight. If sap gets on skin, and is then exposed to sunlight, it can cause a blistering itchy rash. Skin reactions caused by furanocoumarins take a long time to heal, sometimes months, and may even leave scars.

Cow parsnip is not considered to be as toxic as giant hogweed, but like its smaller relative, wild parsnip, it can still cause nasty burns. Unlike the invasive introduced species, giant hogweed and wild parsnip, cow parsnip is native to North America and is found almost everywhere except the south. It is very cold-hardy, and is most abundant in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, where it has a long history of use as a food and medicinal plant.

WILD PARSNIP

Pastinaca sativa

Caution: Do not touch this plant!

What is wild parsnip?

Wild parsnip is an invasive plant from Europe and Asia that has become naturalized in North America. It is well suited for colonizing disturbed areas but can also be found in open fields and lawns. Wild parsnip sap can cause painful, localized burning and blistering of the skin.

Identification

Wild parsnip can grow up to 5' tall and has hollow, grooved stems that are hairless. Leaves resemble large celery leaves. They are yellow-green, coarsely toothed and compound, with 3-5 leaflets. Small, yellow flowers are clustered together in a flat-topped array approximately 3-8" across. Flowering usually occurs during the second year of growth, starting in May or June and lasting for 1-2 months. Seeds are flat, brown, and slightly winged to facilitate wind dispersal in the fall.



Wild parsnip infestation



Wild parsnip stem



Wild parsnip leaf

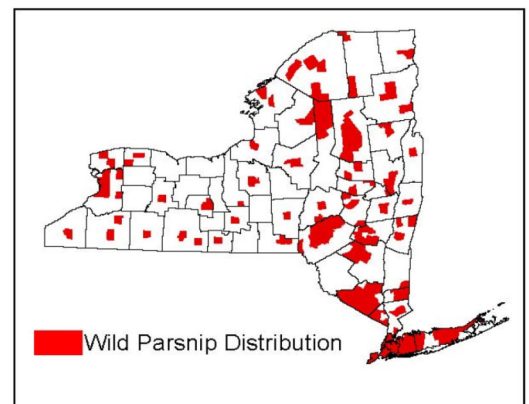


Wild parsnip flower cluster and seeds

Seed Photo: Bruce Ackley, Bugwood.org

Where is wild parsnip located?

Wild parsnip can be found growing in a broad range of habitats, especially along roadsides, in fields and in pastures. It is common in the United States and Canada and is widespread in New York. The map on the right reflects only what has been positively identified and reported; it significantly under represents the presence of wild parsnip in the state. DEC encourages the public to report sightings of this invasive plant to iMapInvasives (see below).



Why is wild parsnip dangerous?

Wild parsnip sap contains chemicals called furanocoumarins which can make skin more vulnerable to ultraviolet radiation. Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours. This reaction, known as phytophotodermatitis, can also cause discoloration of the skin and increased sensitivity to sunlight that may last for years.

How to protect yourself from wild parsnip:

- Learn to identify wild parsnip at different life stages.
- Do not touch any parts of the plant with bare skin.
- Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, pants, boots and eye protection if working near wild parsnip to prevent skin contact with the sap. Synthetic, water-resistant materials are recommended.

If contact with sap occurs...

- Wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water, and keep it covered for at least 48 hours to prevent a reaction.
- If a reaction occurs, keep the affected area out of sunlight to prevent further burning or discoloration, and see a physician.



Burns from wild parsnip
Photo: Andrew Link, *Lacrosse Tribune* 2013

What can be done about wild parsnip?

Prevent establishment and spread

It is important to remove new infestations while they are still small and not well established. When using equipment where wild parsnip is present, make sure to clean it thoroughly before using it again in an area that is parsnip-free. Avoid areas where seed is present to prevent its accidental spread on clothing and equipment.

Control and management

Manual removal of plants can be effective for small areas. Cutting roots 1-2" below the soil or pulling plants by hand should be done before they have gone to seed. If removing plants after seeds have already developed, cut off the seed heads and put them in plastic bags. Leave the bags out in the sun for one week to kill the seed heads before disposal. Mowing wild parsnip after flowers have bloomed but before seeds have developed can kill the plants. Some plants may re-sprout, making it necessary to mow the area again. General herbicides can be applied as spot treatments to new shoots.

Report an infestation

If you believe you have found wild parsnip...

- Take a picture of the entire plant and close-ups of the leaf, flower and/or seed.
- Note the location (intersecting roads, landmarks or GPS coordinates).
- Report the infestation to iMapInvasives at www.NYiMapInvasives.org.

For more information, contact DEC Forest Health (see below) or your local Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) by visiting www.nyis.info.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Forest Health

Division of Lands and Forests

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561

P: 845-256-3111 | F: 845-255-3414 | ghogweed@dec.ny.gov

www.dec.ny.gov



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Stinging Nettle

In New York there are two very similar subspecies of tall perennial stinging nettles, American (*Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis*) and European (*Urtica dioica ssp. dioica*). Both are common, especially in disturbed areas. They are apt to grow near streams, along trails, and are especially common around old farm sites. Since nettles can grow up to 8 feet tall, going through a large patch of nettle can be a daunting prospect.



Formerly all stinging nettles were thought to be introduced European nettles. However many of these plants, especially in natural areas, have been recognized as a native subspecies. Given that European and American nettles are hard to distinguish unless they are in bloom, identifying them both as stinging nettles is sufficient if the objective is merely to avoid being stung.

Identification

Stinging nettles are usually found in dense stands which spread vegetatively by underground stems called rhizomes. Although nettles produce prodigious amounts of seed, their most reliable means of spread is by rhizomes. Rhizome fragments are readily spread by soil disturbances such as plowing, ditch cleaning and construction.

Nettle stems are quite slender, square and grow 6 to 8 feet tall, with occasional thin branches. Leaves are thin, dark green, 2 to 4 inches long, with a tapered tip. The edges of the leaves are toothed and the leaf surface is distinctly veined and rather rough looking. The leaves are opposite along the stem. Long clusters of tiny male or female flowers are produced at the base of each pair of leaves. They are usually light green or tan, and are apt to look rather messy and tangled.

Nettles have both ordinary and stinging hairs on stems, leaf petioles (stem part of a leaf) and undersides of the leaves. Stinging hairs are longer, about 1 millimeter long, and tend to stick out aggressively. Stinging hairs are most abundant on the stems, leaf petioles and undersides of the leaves, especially along the leaf veins.

Where is stinging nettle located?

Nettles occur in all parts of New York, but are most common in riparian areas, along stream banks and also in disturbed areas especially farmland. In hot areas, they favor sites in partial shade, but will grow in full sun in moist soils along streams or in ditches.

Why is stinging nettle a problem?

A stinging nettle sting can feel like a bee sting: sharp, sudden, and very painful. It's almost an instinct to look for a bee or stinging ant as the culprit rather than the tall straggly plants along a trail or weeds in a garden. Even a small nettle plant only a few inches tall can deliver a nasty sting. People pulling weeds have even been stung through cloth gloves.

Nettles have hollow stinging hairs about 1 millimeter long on their leaves and stems. When a stinging hair is touched, the tip breaks off leaving a microscopic hollow needle which injects a little dose of histamine, acetylcholine, serotonin and formic acid. These cause an immediate painful skin reaction, sometimes with burning, itching or tingling for several hours.

This is an irritant rather than an allergic reaction.

Historical uses of nettles

Stinging nettles have a long history of use for food, medicine and fiber. Since cooking deactivates the stings, young nettle leaves make highly nutritious cooked greens. Traditional and alternative medical uses include using the actual stings to counter arthritis pain, and various extracts made from the leaves and roots to treat many conditions. The long stems are a traditional source of fiber to make cloth. Interestingly, although livestock avoid live stinging nettle for obvious reasons, they can eat dried nettles, which rival alfalfa for protein and nutrition levels.



Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is a native plant and one of the most hated, not only because of the itchy rash caused by the slightest contact, but also because it is so difficult to spot. The appearance of the leaves and the growth habit are so variable that even experienced outdoors people can be fooled. Poison ivy is also extremely common, and apt to grow where people are sure to encounter it.



Identification

The leaves always have three leaflets. The central end leaflet is largest and has a distinct stem. The two lower leaflets are smaller, often asymmetrical, and attach directly to the leaf stem. Leaves are usually somewhat glossy especially in sun, but not always. Leaves may have smooth margins or a few large teeth (edge looks notched). Young leaves are often reddish.

Poison ivy is a woody vine capable of climbing 75 feet or more, but often grows as a ground cover. It may also look like a shrub, or even a tree, if it has some kind of support.

Poison ivy climbs with black wiry clinging roots along the stem. It does not have tendrils and it does not twine. Old vines may be so covered with roots that look dark and hairy. A mature poison ivy vine on a tree will be a tightly clinging leafless stem as much as 3 inches in diameter growing straight up a tree trunk for several feet before it sends out flowering branches. These side branches are thin, often unbranched and may be up to 6 feet long. They come off the stem almost at right angles, and have a very characteristic appearance.



The leaves can be alarmingly big, sometimes 12 inches wide (an unnerving sight when encountered at head height along a trail). Clusters of small yellowish flowers are followed by small whitish berries.

Where is poison ivy located?

Poison ivy is native to North America, and present statewide in New York. It is extremely common, especially when it grows as a ground cover. Thin woody stems run along the ground and become rooted in. Leaves grow on short slender upright shoots, often mixed in with grass. Poison ivy is especially common along edges of wooded areas, paths, and meadows. It prefers rich soils, good moisture and the partial shade of forest edges, but seems to be able to grow almost anywhere except on very dry hot sites. It will however grow well on hot dry limestone outcrops.

Since it is tolerant to salt spray it is common in beach areas, often growing in low patches on dunes. It is also tolerant of road salt, and is common in ditches and on roadsides. It climbs trees, buildings, fence posts, phone poles and rock outcrops.

Poison ivy is primarily spread by birds who eat the berries.

Why is poison ivy dangerous?

All parts of the plant contain a resinous oil called urushiol (you-ROO-she-all), which is a potent allergen. Individuals differ in sensitivity. Usually a person has to be exposed at least once previously to become sensitized and develop an allergic reaction. The typical skin reaction of an intensely itchy rash appears up to 24 hours after exposure. In some people, the rash progresses to severe blistering and may require steroid treatment.



Giant Hogweed

If you suspect you may have found giant hogweed you should take photos, note the location, and report the site to NYS DEC via Email (ghogweed@dec.ny.gov), or at the Giant Hogweed Information Line: 1-845-256-3111. See how to identify giant hogweed and some common lookalikes that get mistaken for giant hogweed below:

Characteristics of the Giant Hogweed Plant

White flowers with 50-150 flower rays clustered into an umbrella shaped flower cluster up to 2.5 feet across.



Between 7 and 14 feet tall (depending upon growth stage and if mowed or cut).



Huge leaves incised and deeply lobed up to 5 feet across.



Stems are green with extensive purple splotches and prominent coarse white hairs. Stems are also hollow, ridged, 2-4 inches in diameter, and have a thick circle of hairs at base of leaf stalk.


























Seeds are dry, flattened, and oval.
 Approximately 3/8 inch long and tan with brown lines (oil tubes) extending 3/4 of the seed length that widen at ends

Many plants are often misidentified as giant hogweed - the most common plant being cow parsnip. Please thoroughly look through the charts below to see the major differences between giant hogweed and cow parsnip, angelica, wild parsnip, and poison hemlock.

Common Giant Hogweed Lookalikes

Plant	Flower	Leaf	Stem
<p>Wild Parsnip</p>  <p>Up to 5 feet tall</p>	 <p>Single flower stalk with flat-topped umbel of yellow flower clusters Flowers late May - early July</p>	 <p>Compound, pinnate, 5 to 15 toothed leaflets, variably lobed, yellowish-green</p>	 <p>Yellowish-green with full length grooves (no hairs or bristles)</p>
<p>Angelica</p>  <p>4 to 9 feet tall</p>	 <p>Softball-sized and shaped clusters, greenish-white or white Flowers mid May - mid June</p>	 <p>Compound leaves that may extend up to 2 feet wide</p>	 <p>Smooth, waxy purple, 1 to 2.5 inches in diameter (no hairs or bristles)</p>
<p>Poison Hemlock</p>  <p>4 to 9 feet tall</p>	 <p>Small and white arranged in numerous flat-topped clusters on all branches Flowers late May - late June</p>	 <p>Bright green, small and fern-like, may appear glossy</p>	 <p>Smooth and waxy stem with purple blotches, 1 to 2 inches in diameter (no hairs or bristles)</p>

Giant Hogweed vs Cow Parsnip

	Giant Hogweed	Cow Parsnip
Leaf	Compound, lobed, deeply incised, up to 5 feet wide	 <p>Compound, less incised than hogweed, between 2 to 2.5 feet wide</p>
Flower	 <p>White umbrella-shaped flower clusters up to 2.5 feet wide</p>	 <p>White flat-topped flower clusters no larger than 1 foot wide</p>
Stem	 <p>Green with purple splotches and coarse white hairs - thick circle of hairs at base of leaf stalk, 2-4 inches in diameter</p>	 <p>Green and ridged with fine white hairs, 1-2 inches in diameter</p>
Flowers	 <p>50 or more rays per flower cluster Flowers late June - mid July</p>	 <p>15 to 30 rays per flower cluster Flowers late May - late June</p>
Seed	 <p>Giant Hogweed</p> <p>Oval-shaped with oil tubes that extend 3/4 the length of the seed and widen at ends</p>	 <p>Cow Parsnip</p> <p>Heart-shaped with oil tubes that extend 1/2 the length of the seed</p>

If you think a plant is giant hogweed:

1. PROTECT:

Don't touch it. Skin exposed to giant hogweed sap and sunlight can be severely burned. If it touches your skin, immediately:

- Wash with soap and water
- Protect the area from sunlight for 48 hours

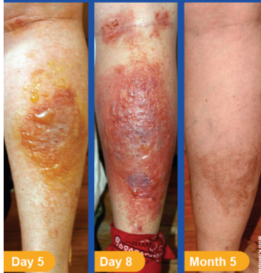
2. IDENTIFY:

See DEC's website. Take photos of the entire plant (stem, leaves, flower, seed). High resolution preferred.

3. REPORT:

Attach photos and e-mail ghogweed@dec.ny.gov or call the Hogweed Hotline at 1-845-256-3111.

If giant hogweed is confirmed, DEC will contact the landowner to discuss control options.



Day 5 Day 8 Month 5

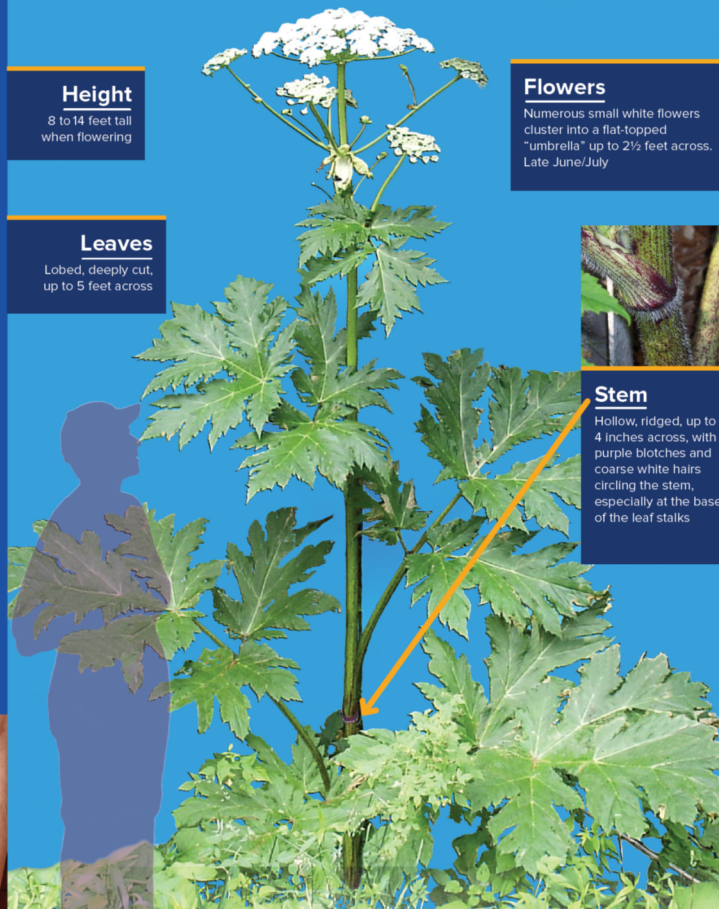
See DEC's website for a printable brochure, more information, and how you can help.



Scan the above QR code with your smartphone or visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html

BEWARE OF GIANT HOGWEED

Don't Touch This Plant!



Height

8 to 14 feet tall when flowering

Leaves

Lobed, deeply cut, up to 5 feet across

Flowers

Numerous small white flowers cluster into a flat-topped "umbrella" up to 2½ feet across. Late June/July



Stem

Hollow, ridged, up to 4 inches across, with purple blotches and coarse white hairs circling the stem, especially at the base of the leaf stalks

Its sap can cause painful burns, permanent scarring and even blindness.

PLANTS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR GIANT HOGWEED



Cow Parsnip
May cause burns.



Angelica
May cause burns.



Queen Anne's Lace



Wild Parsnip
DON'T TOUCH! CAN CAUSE SEVERE BURNS.

ghogweed@dec.ny.gov
Giant Hogweed Hotline: 1-845-256-3111

Division of Lands and Forests
Forest Health and Protection
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561

DEC is working hard to control giant hogweed.



Spraying with herbicide



Cutting the plant root



Removing seed heads

Giant hogweed is an invasive, non-native plant classified as a noxious weed. It is unlawful to propagate, sell or transport. In addition to being a health concern, it crowds out other plants and causes soil erosion.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Tick Bites and Lyme Disease



Understanding Tick Bites and Lyme Disease



How to prevent tick bites



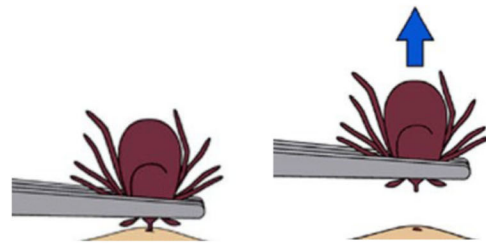
Ticks can spread disease, including Lyme disease.

Protect yourself:

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. Always follow product instructions.
- Wear clothing treated with permethrin.
- Shower as soon as possible after spending time outdoors.
- Check for ticks daily. Ticks can hide under the armpits, behind the knees, in the hair, and in the groin.
- Tumble clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed.

How to remove a tick

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure to remove the tick. Avoid twisting or jerking.
3. Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

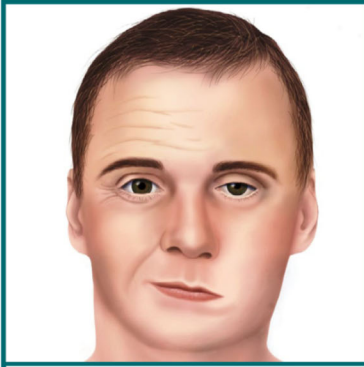


Notes:

- Remove the tick as soon as possible to reduce your chances of getting an infection from the tick bite.
- Don't use nail polish, petroleum jelly, or a hot match to make the tick detach.
- If tick mouthparts remain in the skin, leave them alone. In most cases, they will fall out in a few days.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Facial paralysis.



Bull's eye rash on the back.



Arthritic knee.



When to see your healthcare provider

If you develop a rash, fever, exhaustion, or joint and muscle aches within several weeks of removing a tick or spending time in tick habitat, see your healthcare provider. Be sure to mention your recent tick bite and when it happened, or that you've spent time in places where ticks may live.

If left untreated, Lyme disease can affect the joints, heart, or nervous system.

Antibiotics treat Lyme disease

People treated with antibiotics in the early stages of Lyme disease usually recover rapidly and completely. The antibiotics most commonly used to treat Lyme disease include: doxycycline, amoxicillin, or cefuroxime axetil.

Looking ahead to recovery

Rest and take antibiotics as prescribed. Recovery may take several weeks or longer.

Some people wonder if there is a test to confirm that they are cured, but there is no such test. Retesting for Lyme disease is not recommended because blood tests might be positive for months or years after you have been treated. A positive test doesn't mean you are still infected. It simply means that your immune system remembers your infection.

You can get Lyme disease again if you are bitten by another infected tick, so protect yourself from tick bites.

***For more information see www.cdc.gov/Lyme
and www.cdc.gov/Ticks***

Ticks found In New York State

Black Legged Deer Tick



transmits: Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Powassan

American Dog Tick



transmits: Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Lone Star Tick



transmits: ehrlichiosis, tularemia, STARI

Asian Longhorned Tick



First Reported in the U.S. in 2017. In other countries, bites from these ticks can cause serious illness to people and animals. As of Oct. 2, 2018, no harmful germs have been found in the ticks collected in the U.S.

Meth Lab Debris

DO NOT HANDLE
METH LAB
DEBRIS

**If you find suspicious material, report it
to law enforcement immediately.**

Tompkins County Sheriff's Department

(607) 272-2444

New York State Police

(607) 347-4440

(607) 273-4671 (Chief)

How to Recognize a Meth Lab

There are some tell-tale signs that illegal drug activity is occurring

By Buddy T

Updated April 29, 2018



The ingredients used to make methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories are generally household products that by themselves present little danger, but when combined can have serious toxic and explosive effects.

If you came in contact with a methamphetamine lab operation, would you recognize it? What ingredients and equipment would be present? What should you do if you find a meth lab?

Ingredients of Meth

Most of the chemicals used to make methamphetamine are not dangerous, but some of them are hazardous. They can include everything from acetone to drain cleaner to cold tablets. Battery acid, paint thinner, and freon (yes, like you'd find in an air conditioning unit) are possible ingredients too.

If you see any of the above ingredients stockpiled in greater than usual amounts, it could be an indication that someone is operating a meth lab.

Meth Laboratory Indicators

The equipment and processes used to produce meth can also reveal the existence of a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, there are some things to look for that may seem innocent enough at first glance, but which may indicate a meth lab is nearby.

Here are a few tell-tale signs:

- Propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue, an unusual amount of cold pills containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, and coffee filters with a white pasty substance or shiny white crystals
- A strong chemical odor. Sometimes it can smell like urine.
- Glass cookware or frying pans with powdery residue, bottles with rubber tubing attached and other chemicals

Many of the above items are found in normal household products, but if they are gathered together in higher than usual amounts, it could indicate meth production activity.

Recognizing a Meth Lab From the Outside

If there is a meth lab inside a building, there may be some indications that can be observed from outside.

The meth-making process produces strong odors and toxic fumes which the makers will try to ventilate by any available means, even if it means opening windows in cold weather or installing fans and blowers, which makes the smell detectable outside the building.

Meth makers will also dump toxic chemical waste outside which can cause dead spots or burned areas in the grass and vegetation. They also produce a great deal of trash which contains unusual items.

Meth producers are breaking the law, so they will sometimes set up extensive security measures, some of which can be seen from outside, such as video cameras, baby monitors, "no trespassing" or "keep out" signs, and possibly guard dogs.

Meth Lab Occupants May Provide Clues

Sometimes the behavior of the occupants of a house or building can be clues to the illegal activity going on inside. You might see occupants of a building containing a meth lab:

- Exhibit paranoid behavior
- Stay inside for extended periods
- Smoke outside to avoid explosions
- Have frequent visitors especially at night
- Take their garbage to another location

What About Shake-and-Bake Meth-Making?

The one-pot or "shake and bake" method of producing methamphetamine may produce a smaller amount of the drug, but can be even more dangerous. Because of the pressure that builds up inside the containers used, they can explode, badly burning or even killing the meth-maker.

The process uses many of the same ingredients and produces the same trash as a regular meth lab (see above), just not as much of it. The containers used (typically two-liter soda bottles) are left with a brown chemical stain inside.

Because the shake-and-bake method can be done anywhere—even in a vehicle—there is not much evidence left of the activity except the trash left behind and the discarded containers.

What to Do if You Find a Meth Lab

Do not touch anything in the lab area and do not sniff any containers. Do not turn any electrical power switches or light switches on or off. Do not open or move any of the containers with chemicals in them.

Whatever you do, do not smoke, eat or drink anywhere near a suspected methamphetamine laboratory. If you come in contact with a meth lab, you should decontaminate yourself and your clothing as quickly as possible, wash your hands and face thoroughly, and call your local authorities.

Cleaning up a clandestine meth lab is a dangerous and complicated process which should be handled by trained professionals. Do not attempt to clean up or dispose of a suspected meth lab yourself.

What Are the Signs of a Meth Lab?

Meth Fact Sheet

What are signs of a meth lab?

A typical meth lab is a collection of chemical bottles, hoses, and pressurized cylinders. The cylinders can take many forms, from modified propane tanks to fire extinguishers, scuba tanks and soda dispensers. The tanks contain anhydrous ammonia or hydrochloric acid — both highly poisonous and corrosive.

Labs are frequently abandoned, and the potentially explosive and very toxic chemicals are left behind. Chemicals may also be burned or dumped in woods or along roads.

What does a meth lab smell like? Strong chemical odors such as ether, ammonia (smells like cat urine) and acetone (smells like nail polish)

The most common chemicals used to start the meth-making process are over-the-counter cold and asthma medications which contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as decongestants or stimulants.

Here are signs of a meth lab:

- Unusual strong chemical odors such as ether, ammonia (smell similar to cat urine) and acetone (smells similar to fingernail polish)
- Excess amounts of cold medicines containing Ephedrine or pseudoephedrine
- Empty pill bottles or blister packs
- Propane/Freon tanks with blue corrosion on fittings or spray-painted or burned, with bent or tampered valves
- Starting fluid cans opened from the bottom
- Heating sources such as hotplates/torches
- Excess coffee filters
- Excess baggies
- Excess matches
- Excess lithium batteries
- Cookware (Corning type) with white residue

- Glassware, mason jars or other glass containers
- Plastic tubing
- Funnels
- Hoses leading outside for ventilation
- Soft drink bottles with hoses running from them
- Drain cleaner, paint thinner, toluene, denatured alcohol, ammonia, acid, starter fluid, antifreeze, hydrogen peroxide, rock salt/iodine
- Lantern or camp stove fuel
- Iodine- or chemical-stained bathrooms or kitchen fixtures
- Evidence of chemical waste or dumping
- Excessive amounts of trash, particularly chemical containers, coffee filters with red stains, duct tape rolls. Empty cans of or paint thinner or pieces of red-stained cloth around the property
- Secretive or unfriendly occupants
- Extensive security measures or attempts to ensure privacy such as “No Trespassing” or “Beware of Dog” signs, fences, and large trees or shrubs
- Curtains always drawn or windows blackened or covered with aluminum foil on residences, garages, sheds, or other structures
- Increased activity, especially at night
- Frequent visitors, particularly at unusual times
- Renters who pay their landlords in cash

*** If you suspect a dwelling or property may be an illegal lab, contact your local police, or sheriff's department. If it's an emergency, call 911. Do not enter a site that you think may have been used for cooking meth. Meth labs present extreme dangers from explosions and exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Find out possible health problems of living near an illegal lab. Read the **WHAT ARE THE RISKS IF I LIVE NEAR A METH LAB?** fact sheet

Items Commonly Used in Meth Production



Police warn hunters about the dangers of meth lab trash



By NewsCenter 16

Posted: Mon 6:32 AM, Sep 29, 2014

Hunting season is now upon us in Northeast Indiana, and with that in mind, the potential exists that some deer and small game hunters may come across trash left behind by those who have manufactured methamphetamine.

The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Section wants to remind citizens that this trash may

contain chemicals that are toxic, flammable, corrosive and acidic. The combination of these chemicals could cause an explosion, fire or burns if they come into direct contact with the skin.

Sergeant Mike Toles and Master Trooper Andy Smith, Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Section, have identified some points for hunters to keep in mind.

- Meth cooks are using a variety of containers to manufacture their product. A popular container is the one and a half gallon gas can. These cans appear to be new and have been found along the roadside by unknowing people who believe that they have found a new gas can and end up with a working meth lab.
- Other items to be aware of include battery casings, Ziploc style bags, empty blister packs, and containers (pop bottles, jars, etc.) that contain a granular material. They may or may not have a tube extending out of the top depending on whether it is a hydrochloric (HCL) gas generator or a one pot reaction. Both of these are extremely hazardous.
- Be aware of any type of cylinder found in an odd place (middle of a field, ditch line, wooded area) that has a modified valve. The valve will typically be modified in some way and will have a bright blue color to it. These cylinders are used to store or transport anhydrous ammonia, which is an extremely dangerous gas when direct contact or inhalation has occurred.
- Be aware of backpacks and nylon or plastic bags found in an odd place. These bags could contain hazardous chemicals used in the meth lab process. Often meth cooks will hide these items and come back for them at a later time or date. Don't handle or open these bags. The bags can trap toxic vapors and, when opened, will rise striking the person in the face.

If someone comes across this type of trash, DO NOT handle it.

Discarded meth labs found along roadside

By WAFF 48

September 5, 2013 at 12:31 AM CDT - Updated June 30 at 11:31 PM



DECATUR, AL (WAFF) - Workers mowing in the Rock Creek Road and Tarkil Road area of Morgan County came upon about 30 discarded one-pot meth labs Wednesday.

Agents with the Morgan County Drug Task Force recovered the bottles which were down an embankment about 50 feet off the road.

The sheriff's office asks if anyone sees trash thrown from vehicles or suspicious-acting people along the roadway to report what was happening.

Officials also warn not to tamper with garbage or items when you are not sure of their content. Meth labs and their chemicals are extremely dangerous.

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