

HS Plants to be aware of:



If you'd like to be scarred, blistered or blinded today, hug a hogweed

giant hogweed plants (also known as the scarier-sounding *Heracleum mantegazzianum*), which are supertoxic and can cause severe skin irritation and even blindness. The noxious weed can grow up to 16 feet high and has massive, umbrella-shaped white flowers. It might look cool, but in case its hairy stem isn't enough to keep you away, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and departments of natural resources in multiple states are warning folks to steer clear, as its sap can cause blisters and scarring, and a drop in the eye can cause blindness. The evil plant, a relative of carrots and parsnips, blooms annually in late spring.