

WEED NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2012

- The Noxious Weed Control Board adopted the 2012 Jefferson County Weed List, at their Feb 16th meeting. The Weed List can be seen on-line at http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/WeedBoard/pdfs/Weed_List.pdf

- Several large infestations of **yellow archangel** have been found in the City of Port Townsend—mostly on trails. The leaves (left) are usually



but sometimes are plain green. The tubular yellow flowers (right), which grow in pairs, usually appear in April or May. The stems are square. Yellow archangel is commonly used in hanging baskets and when people dump their baskets out in wooded areas it spreads prolifically—crowding out native plants. Yellow archangel is very hard to control



manually—the roots are woody and extensive. The Weed Board plans to spray some of the Port Townsend sites later in the year.

See our website for more information on yellow archangel--
<http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/WeedBoard/pdfs/FactSheets/YellowArchangel.pdf>

Call or email if you see yellow archangel growing on trails or in wooded areas.
360-379-5610 ext 205 or edixon@co.jefferson.wa.us.

- Poison hemlock is still a big problem, especially in Port Townsend and we need volunteers to help pull at Blue Heron, Froggy Bottoms and many other sites. Please call or email (see above) if you can spare an hour or two, would like to help your community, get some healthy exercise and maybe make some new friends!! Several other plants are similar to poison hemlock, but poison hemlock has **NO HAIRS** anywhere. Most other plants have hairs on the underside of the leaves, or where the leaves join the stem.



Young poison hemlock—NO hairs

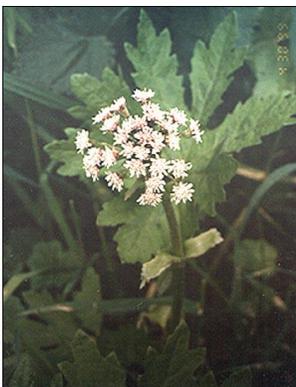
- Weed Board staff and Board Members are willing and available to give presentations to garden clubs or other community groups.

Weed of the Month—Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Giant hogweed has been found on only a few sites in Jefferson County, where it was probably planted as an ornamental. It is a massive plant, fifteen to twenty feet tall with flower heads up to two and a half feet across. The hollow stems have purple blotches and they contain a clear watery sap that can cause burns if skin contact is followed by exposure to sunlight. It prefers rich, damp soil and can spread along streams and roadsides. It spreads rapidly, mainly by seed; one flower head can produce thousands of seeds that are distributed by wind, water, animals or people. Hand pulling or digging can control giant hogweed, but be careful not to leave root fragments in the ground because they may re-sprout. Also, wear protective clothing because of the potential of burns from the sap..

Two different plants—both native—are commonly mistaken for giant hogweed. **Cow parsnip** (*Heracleum lanatum*), right, is smaller, usually growing to only three to five feet tall; giant hogweed can be fifteen to twenty feet. Cow parsnip's flower heads are less than one foot in width; giant hogweed's can be two and a half feet.



Coltsfoot (*Petasites palmatus*), left, blooms in early spring and is **much** smaller than giant hogweed. It has rounded leaves and smaller rounded flower heads.

Call if you think you see giant hogweed—360-379-5610 ext 205