

OUTDOORS

CALL OF THE WILD

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have a unique hunting, fishing or outdoors tale.
Call the Journal at 285-7411

HARD HUNT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Best of International Falls shot this moose in Ear Falls, Ontario, Oct. 4, with his bow. Best said his wife, Suzie Best, secured the 10-day hunt for his 40th birthday present. The moose dressed out at 900 pounds, and had a 40-inch spread. He shot it at 20 yards and the moose moved 50 yards after it was shot. “This hunt was very long, hard days,” reported Best. “We would leave the lodge at 6 a.m. and come back at dark. It was the hardest hunt I have ever endured. I was exhausted but well, well worth it. I shot the moose with my bow on day 10 of the hunt at 3 p.m. with only a few hours left.”

VNP removes buoys, offers no-hunting reminder

VNP STAFF REPORT

Voyageurs National Park staff has begun removing hazard markers and regulatory buoys within the park. All buoys on Rainy Lake have been removed, and work toward removal of Namakan Lake markers is underway. Voyageurs National Park

staff remind all hunters that hunting and trapping of any type or manner is prohibited on national park lands and all waters within the boundary of the park. Taking any animal within the boundaries of the park is prohibited and includes the taking of any animal that has entered the park bound-

ary after being shot outside the park. Park rangers enforce the hunting and trapping prohibition under federal regulations, which carry a maximum penalty up to \$10,000 and/or six months in jail for misdemeanor violations and \$20,000 and/or five years in jail with forfeiture of hunting equipment for felony violations. Park officials remind hunters to know where they are hunting. Maps depicting the park boundary and area information are available on visitor center bulletin boards and at park headquarters. Call 283-6600 for more information.

October Weed of the Month: Giant hogweed

BY EMILIE JUSTEN
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Editor’s note: This is part of a series of regular columns by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the state’s noxious weeds. Giant hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is a stunningly tall plant with a serious public health risk. When the sap comes in contact with skin and is exposed to sunlight, it can cause painful blisters and scarring. Additionally, the sap in contact with eyes can result in blindness. Originally brought to North America as an ornamental plant, it escaped cultivation and can be found in isolated pockets in many states. Fortunately, it has not been confirmed in the state of Minnesota, although it has been found growing in parts of Wisconsin. Giant hogweed has many identifiable characteristics. It has deeply cut leaves up to five feet across, and the plant flowers on a 10-15 foot

stalk. The plant produces large clusters of tiny white flowers that reach up to two and a half feet across. The stalks are two inches in diameter and hollow with purple mottling. Both the stems and undersides of the leaves are covered in coarse white hairs. It can be mistaken for cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), a native plant that is common throughout much of Minnesota, has similar leaves and flowers, and reaches 3-10 feet tall with 4-8 inch flowers. However, giant hogweed has much larger, strongly dissected leaves and huge flowers. The impacts of giant hogweed are numerous. Not only is giant hogweed a serious public health hazard, it can also negatively impact soil dynamics, fisheries, and outcompete native plants. In states where it has been confirmed, it can be found growing in yards, ditches, along stream banks, in disturbed areas, open wooded areas, and thrives in sunny locations. Giant hogweed spreads by seed that can be moved by



FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.

Crews wear hazmat suits to tackle giant hogweed.

wind, water, wildlife, and humans. Management of giant hogweed requires careful handling. Appropriate protective clothing including gloves, goggles and long sleeve shirts should be worn and contact with the stems should be avoided. Management priorities include early detection and seed dispersal prevention. Cutting the flowers to prevent the spread of seed can be an effective management practice, in combination with applying herbicide to the foliage. Even though this plant has not yet been discovered in Minnesota, the

Minnesota Department of Agriculture regulates giant hogweed as a prohibited noxious weed on the eradicate list because of its close proximity of establishment in Wisconsin. It is also a federal noxious weed regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By law, all above and below ground plant parts must be destroyed, and no transportation, propagation, or sale of the plants is allowed. If you suspect you have seen giant hogweed, please contact the MDA’s Arrest the Pest voicemail at 888-545-6684 or email arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us.

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