

Central Lake Ontario Conservation's Most UNTOUCHABLE PLANTS

We share our local landscape with some **untouchable** plants that can cause health issues for people and pets ranging from minor skin irritation to blistering and severe burns. Some of these plants are native and contribute to the ecosystems they inhabit, while others are introduced and are either invasive or naturalized.

This poster will help you identify the more common “untouchables” found across Durham Region, some of which may be found on the more than 2,700 hectares that Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) owns and manages. As part of our Integrated Pest Management Plan (available upon request), our goal is to reduce the use of herbicides; however, we do spray the “untouchables” where they pose a health risk to conservation area visitors. While enjoying our Conservation Areas, please stay on the trails, keep your dogs on a leash and report these plants if they are found within reach of our sanctioned trails by contacting CLOCA at mail@cloca.com or 905-579-0411.



IDENTIFYING THE UMBELS



AVOID

Giant Hogweed

Invasive, 2.5-5m tall

Umbel size: 30-90cm, purple on stem
Phototoxic (*damage occurs when exposed to light*) sap may cause severe burns and blindness



AVOID

Wild Parsnip

Invasive, 0.5-1.5m tall

Yellowish-green flower
Phototoxic sap may cause severe burns



AVOID

Cow Parsnip

Native, 1-2.5m tall

Umbel size: 10-30cm, green stem
Phototoxic sap may cause burns

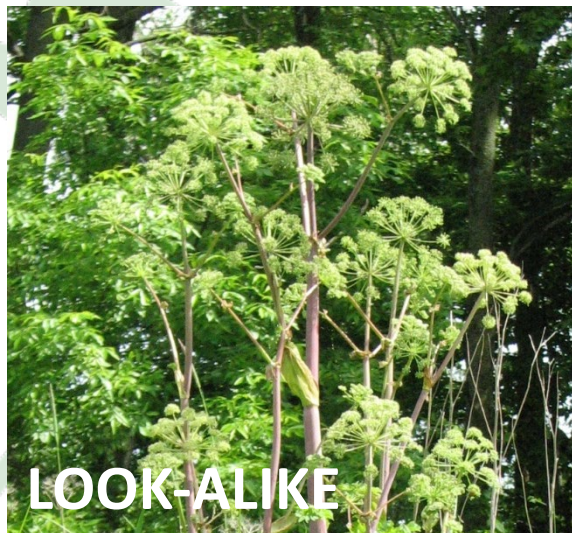


LOOK-ALIKE

Queen Anne's Lace

Naturalized, 0.3-1.5m tall

Single purple flower in centre of umbel
Phototoxic sap may cause irritation in some people



LOOK-ALIKE

Angelica

Native, 1-2m tall

Greenish-white, globe-shaped umbels
Used as a medicinal herb



LOOK-ALIKE

Water Hemlock

Native, 1-2m tall

Hairless stems, loose umbels
Poisonous if ingested

OTHERS TO AVOID



Poison Ivy

Native, vine or shrub

3 irregularly toothed leaflets
Oil on leaves and stem may cause rash and blistering



Stinging Nettle

Native, 0.3-2m tall

Lance shaped leaves
Hairs on leaves and stalks may cause short-term burning sensation



Canadian Wood Nettle

Native, 0.5-1m tall

Large leaves, 4 in wide
Hairs on leaves and stalks may cause short-term burning sensation