St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

Giant Hogweed

SLELO – PRISM Giant Hogweed Control Program
2013 Field Activities. April – May

Figures 1,2,3: Early season basal growth of (*Heracleum mantegazziamum*) showing identifying characteristics, purple blotches and white hairs on leaf branches. Photos by Rob Williams.

Report drafted by Mike Parks and Rob Williams, June 2013

Introduction and Background:

During the first year of the SLELO program, partners at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, joined forces with the SLELO partnership to collaborate on efforts to eradicate[1] Giant Hogweed populations from the region. This report reflects findings and efforts made during the 2013 field season.

Beginning in 2012, a total of 134 Giant Hogweed sites were identified within the five counties representing the SLELO region. Control of these sites was distributed among regional partners possessing the capability to administer control measures. A breakdown of treatment sites and the responsible partner are presented in **Figure 4**.

County	Partner	No. of Sites
St. Lawrence	n/a	0 reported
Jefferson	SLELO	6
Oswego	SWCD	24
Oneida	DEC	68
Lewis	SLELO	36
Total Sites		**134***

Figure 4: *Includes additional observations made during the 2012 season.

Biology of (*Heracleum mantegazziamum*):

During the first two years of growth, Giant Hogweed (GH), produces only basal leaves. During the third year of growth that GH produces a fast growing terminal leader (primary stalk) often referred to as a bolt which then produces a flowering seed head known as an umbel, which is

[1] The biology of this plant allows for potential eradication.

capable of producing up to 20,000 seeds [2] . Given that the plant takes three years to reach maturity, eradication becomes possible during first and second generation plant growth.

2013 Field Activities:

At the time of this report Oswego County is reporting a 40% reduction in re-growth from the preceding treatment year. Sites treated Jefferson and Lewis counties by SLELO's licensed applicator showed an approximate 25% reduction in regrowth from the preceding year **Figure 5**.

Figure 5. Comparison of treatment sites between 2012 and 2013 and reductions in active sites.

County Within SLELO-PRISM	Partner	No. of "**Actual**" Treatment Sites Reported in 2012	No. of Sites Treated in 2013	No. of Sites With No Regrowth in 2013	% Reduction
St. Lawrence	n/a	0 reported	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jefferson	SLELO	6	4 (1-no permission)	0	0%
Oswego	SWCD	50*	30	20	40%
Oneida	DEC	68	**	**	**
Lewis	SLELO	36	27	9	25%
Totals		**160 Sites** 92 w/o DEC	**61 Sites**	**29**	**Average 33 % Reduction**

*Reflects additional sites found during the 2012 season.

**Not yet reported

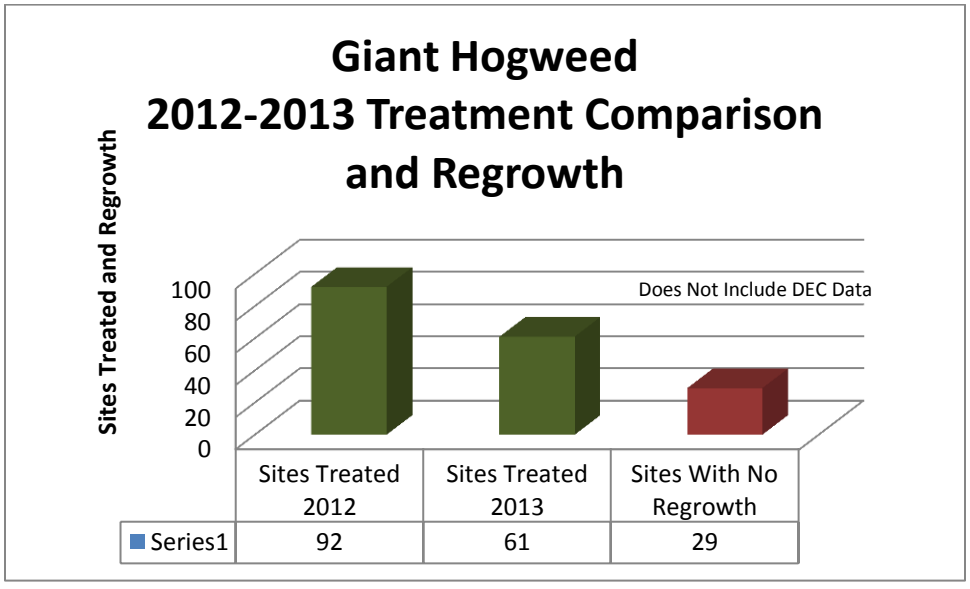

Figure 6. Treatment Comparison and Regrowth

[2] NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests

Summary:
With continued treatment of GH sites across the SLELO Region and within central New York, it is hoped that the number of sites showing no post treatment regrowth will increase along with a subsequent reduction in overall treatment sites, refer to **Figure 6**. Partners of the SLELO-PRISM will continue with treatment efforts towards this goal.

It should also be noted that (to date) no GH sites have been reported in St. Lawrence County**.**