

Phytophotodermatitis – advice note

The following information is adapted from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust website:

Phytophotodermatitis (ppd) is a type of dermatitis contracted as a result of skin contact with certain species of plant, the most notable being giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). In recent years the number of cases of ppd appears to have increased.

Phytophotodermatitis results in conspicuous blistering, darkening and reddening of the skin. It occurs when skin which has made contact with certain plants is also exposed to sunlight. The active photosensitising ingredients in giant hogweed are also found in other members of the umbellifer family and therefore could be responsible for a ppd incident. The table below lists plants which could be responsible for ppd.

<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Garden angelica
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild angelica
<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Wild celery
<i>Bupleurum</i> spp	Hare's-ears
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant hogweed
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>	Scots lovage
<i>Levisticum officinalis</i>	Lovage
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip
<i>Petroselinum</i> spp	Garden parsnip
<i>Peucedanum</i> spp	Milk parsley, hog fennel, masterwort
<i>Pimpinella</i> spp	Greater burnet, saxifrage, burnet saxifrage
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Seseli libanotis</i>	Moon carrot
Rutaceae (mostly cultivated)	
<i>Citrus</i> spp	
<i>Dictaunus</i> spp	
<i>Ruta</i> spp	
<i>Skimmia</i>	
Moraceae	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	

It is recommended that anyone who may be working in tall herb areas with umbellifers should wear protective clothing – i.e. long sleeves and trousers.

Avoid bruising to the plants with your hands

When cutting vegetation by hand, operators should wear gloves to protect hands and wrists. A face shield plus other suitable clothing should be worn when using strimmers and brushcutters.