



Seasonal Employment - 2018

New York State Giant Hogweed Control Program

Forest Health Positions Available in Buffalo & Avon for:

Giant Hogweed Strike Teams

Giant hogweed is an invasive plant with sap capable of causing injury to humans. In addition to being a public health hazard, giant hogweed plants decrease plant diversity and can lead to soil erosion. Giant hogweed plants are located in a variety of settings (e.g. riparian areas, fields, yards, forests). Control of these plants is very manageable when the plant numbers are few but a site can quickly grow from a few plants to many within a short time period. NYSDEC Forest Health's giant hogweed control program assists public and private landowners by controlling the giant hogweed on their properties for them or providing training to them on how to control it themselves. DEC Division of Lands & Forests, Forest Health, has a statewide giant hogweed control program consisting of three one-person manual control crews, six two-person herbicide control crews, and one two-person stream survey crew located throughout DEC Regions 7, 8 & 9, at offices in Avon, Depew, and Syracuse. More information about giant hogweed and DEC's statewide control program can be found online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html>.

Current positions are available in Depew/Buffalo (one-person manual crew) and Avon (two-person herbicide crew). The position's duties involve fieldwork within western NY on both public and private lands; mapping infestations, collecting site information, surveying for plants and implementing control of giant hogweed. Appropriate safety equipment and safety training will be provided at the outset of employment.

Principal Duties

- Contact property owners to obtain permission to enter property for survey and/or control.
- Locate specific control sites using maps and GIS products.
- Implement manual control of giant hogweed. This is a labor-intensive process and involves using a shovel to cut the plant taproot 5 inches below ground level. Manual crew sites may contain up to 400 plants. Herbicide crews will use manual control cutting in sensitive portions of larger sites and at small sites with less than 100 plants.
- Removal and safe disposal of all giant hogweed flower/seed heads found.
- Scout each site for additional giant hogweed plants within a 500-square foot radius of the known, visible giant hogweed plants.
- Conduct field surveys with the use of a hand-held GPS and mobile mapping unit, and plot giant hogweed location polygons and records on digital maps.
- Acquire and inventory digital photographs of specific control sites to monitor yearly progress.
- Maintain detailed records of the control activities and site information for each site.
- Herbicide crews will work under the supervision of a certified commercial pesticide applicator. Accord XRT II will be applied using an appropriate backpack sprayer and nozzle to minimize non-target effects, according to the product label and manufacturer's safety instructions. The recommended manufacturer's dose will be used and label instructions followed. All necessary

equipment will be provided. Landowners will be notified prior to herbicide application and provided with a copy of the herbicide label.

Required knowledge and skills

- Knowledge of accepted safety practices by which to prevent injury to self, staff and public and/or private property.
- Knowledge of invasive species, control techniques and plant identification skills. Ability to identify giant hogweed and associated plants with minimal training.
- Skill in using maps, GPS and GIS to assist in locating and recording survey sites.
- Physical ability to dig, cut and/or spray hogweed plants for four months!
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Ability to interact well with the public and provide accurate information about giant hogweed to interested persons.
- Self-motivated, work well both independently and in a collaborative setting.
- Manual crews: Comfortable working alone for most of the field season
- Herbicide crews:
 - Prior experience a plus. NY State Certified Pesticide Technician, category 3a preferred.
 - Knowledge of pesticide application rules and regulations according to Part 325 of 6 NYCRR and Article 33 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL).
 - Ability to follow direction regarding safe pesticide application.

Minimum Qualifications

- Candidates must possess a valid New York State driver's license at the time of appointment, or demonstrate their ability to meet the transportation needs of the job.
- Must be physically able to perform the duties assigned.

Duration of Employment

April 16- August 21, 2018. Successful applicants will be required to take a 4-day training course, included in the duration of employment, designed and presented by the Division of Lands & Forest in Albany & New Paltz.

Primary Work Location

Employees will be assigned a primary work location (Avon or Buffalo) that is geographically convenient to the giant hogweed sites they will be visiting. Room and board is the responsibility of the employee. Accommodation and living expenses for work outside the primary area will be reimbursed at the standard State rates prescribed for the area.

Standard Work Week & Salary

The typical workweek is four 10-hour days per week (Monday to Thursday). The compensation rate as of April 1, 2018, is \$14.66 per hour.

To Apply

Applicants should supply a letter of intent, resume, and contact information for three professional references to Naja Kraus at naja.kraus@dec.ny.gov or 845-255-3414 (Fax). Please note which office locations (Avon/Buffalo) you are applying for. Positions will be filled as qualified applicants are found.

Successful applicants will need to complete NYSDEC's Employment Application Form (HR-1), available at any DEC Office and online <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/38596.html>. The NYSDEC is an equal opportunity employer.