

Giant Horsetail

(*Equisetum telmateia*)

An Invasive Species



Photo courtesy of
English Country Garden

What is it?

Giant Horsetail is a perennial, non-flowering plant that grows between six inches and several feet tall.

It has a jointed hollow stalk with green stems of slender, jointed branches.

Where did it come from?

Originally from Europe and northern Africa, the Giant Horsetail's first documented appearance in Oregon was in 1881 in Multnomah County.

Why is it bad?

Giant Horsetail is poisonous to animals, especially horses. It spreads through dust like spores that are launched from the "cone" when the spores dry.

Where is it found in Oregon?

Found in 17 different counties, Giant Horsetail grows anywhere it's wet or moist. It is generally found west of the Cascade Mountains.

How is it removed?

The best removal methods are manual (by hand) and chemical. Blocking direct sunlight is also an effective method as Giant Horsetail can't tolerate much shade - try using taller plants or synthetic shading fabrics to block out sunlight.



Photo by:
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Works Cited

Oregon: ODA Plant Division, Noxious Weed Control. June 15, 2008. Oregon State Government. November 6, 2010. <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_gianthorsetail.shtml>

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English Country Garden: Giant Horsetail. November 6, 2010. <<http://www.english-country-garden.com/flowers/horsetail.htm>>