



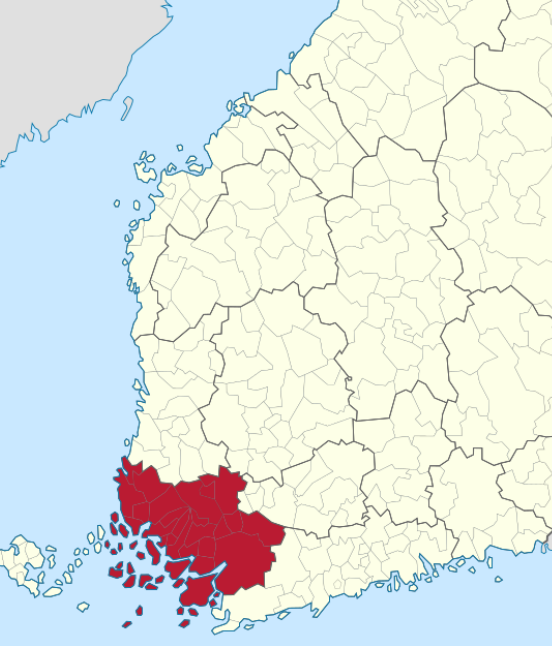
# Giant Hogweed eradication in Varsinais-Suomi (2019–2023)

Finvasive LIFE / FANC (LIFE17/NAT/FI/00528)



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## Project area and partners

- FANC eradicates Giant hogweed species in Southwest Finland, handling all the GH sites in 12 partner municipalities area.
- We target to treat all sites in the municipality, both in public and privately owned properties.
- Partner municipalities partially fund the eradication work for a nominal fee per year and treated site in their area.
- Project receives important land owner contact information from the municipalities.
- Eradication work started in 2019, when our teams checked 222 sites for GH.



# Eradication staff and equipment

- Invasive LIFE project recruited two van teams of two GH workers for 2019 and 2020 seasons, team members work for 3–4 months depending on rate of progress.

*For 2020 season, we hired an additional person to plan and coordinate the teams driving routes*

- Vans are needed to effectively transport and store the eradication equipment and protective clothing for the duration of the season.
- Vans carry shovels, cutting tools, rolls of cover fabric, glyphosate + spraying equipm. and rolls of large waste bags for carrying cut GH inflorescences.



# Visiting a GH site – step by step

1. Mark down time of arrival to site
2. Plan course of action and on site and decide on tasks with partner
3. Walk the perimeter of the hogweed site and...
4. ...update site area size if needed.
5. Estimate the number of GH individual plants on site
6. Take 1–2 photos of the site (before eradication measures).
7. Execute eradication measures (cutting, covering with biodreg. fabric, removing inflorescence, glyphosate treatment).
8. Mark down site info to work diary.
9. Before returning to van, check your boots and clothes for stuck GH seeds.
10. Return back to van the same route you came to the site.
11. Mark down time when leaving site.



# We are doing great work!

## 1. We have succeeded in creating sought after work positions!

3 out of 4 team members from 2019 season applied for the job again in spring 2020! (The one was already employed)

We received over 120 job applications for the positions in spring 2020!

Team members tell us they are having fun doing a job they find meaningful!

## 2. We feel that the **municipalities are now more IAS - aware** than before

We hope we are showing a good example at how a municipality can cost-effectively manage even the more difficult IAS species.

Municipalities are also probably more aware of their obligations to handling the IAS as landowners due to large media interest to IAS and related legislation in 2019



# Challenges and setbacks

- Some partner municipalities have questioned the need to treat also sites on privately owned properties.
- The eradication project was based on the GH site data of a former plant IAS management project in, which ended in 2012.
  - *Data was in many municipalities out-of-date and unreliable (wrong species or inaccurate site location).*
  - *Eradication teams have spent a lot of valuable time checking and updating the information.*
- Remarkable amount of time is also spent to locate property owners contact information and negotiate the permission to eradicate on their land.
- Current covid-situation nearly prevented us from recruiting staff for 2020 season (phew!).



# Season 2021: what changes will we make?

- We will start searching for and contacting land owners earlier in the spring – before recruiting the van team members – so they can concentrate on effective eradication work.
- Local media AND municipality officers will be contacted well before the teams arrive in the area for better public outreach of our work.
- Teams will tackle the (sometimes nightmarishly) larger GH sites as early as possible, and leave smaller and sites with cover materials for later in the season.







Thank you for listening!

