

Parsnip Control



Hand Pulling

Grip the plant stalk just above the ground and pull the plant from the ground. Caution: use protective clothing.

Effective: All year round before the plant goes to seed. If hand pulling after viable seeds are produced, the plants must be collected and burned.

Cutting the Root

Using a spaded shovel or object with a blunt edge, cut the Wild Parsnip root approximately 1" below the ground.

Effective: All year round before the plant goes to seed.

Burn the Seeds

After the plant has gone to seed and chemical spraying is no longer a possibility, burning the seed from the plant with a torch is a possibility. Caution: obtain necessary permits before burning.

Effective: After the plant has turned brown and seeded. When green flowering plants and plants with green seeds were burned there were hardly any impacts to the plant.

Cut and Collect the Seed

Once the plant has gone to seed and is viable, cut the tops of the plant with a scissors or clippers, bagging the seed and burning will reduce the number of viable seeds.

Effective: After the plant has turned brown and seeded.

Mowing

Cutting Wild Parsnip with a mower can cause more harm than good when trying to eliminate the plant. If mowed too early in the year, Wild Parsnip will re-sprout like a stump sucker on a tree sending out 2—3 plants.

Effective: From early spring until plants produce seed.

Spraying

2, 4-D and Weed-B-Gone

Effective: Early spring when rosettes are first visible until plant grows to 8 inches tall.

Curtail and Crossbow (with a surfactant) - Broadleaf

Effective: From early spring until the plant turn woody and produces viable seed.

Round Up and Ranger - Glyphosate

Effective: From early spring until the plant turn woody and produce viable seed.

The best defense is to be able to identify the plant and be aware of what you need to do when working around or near it. Sap will be present in all these stages with increased potency during spring and summer and decreased potency after the seed has set to end of growing season. Below are photos of the various stages of Wild Parsnip's life cycle.

Early Spring



Late Spring or Fall



Early Summer



Flowering, Summer



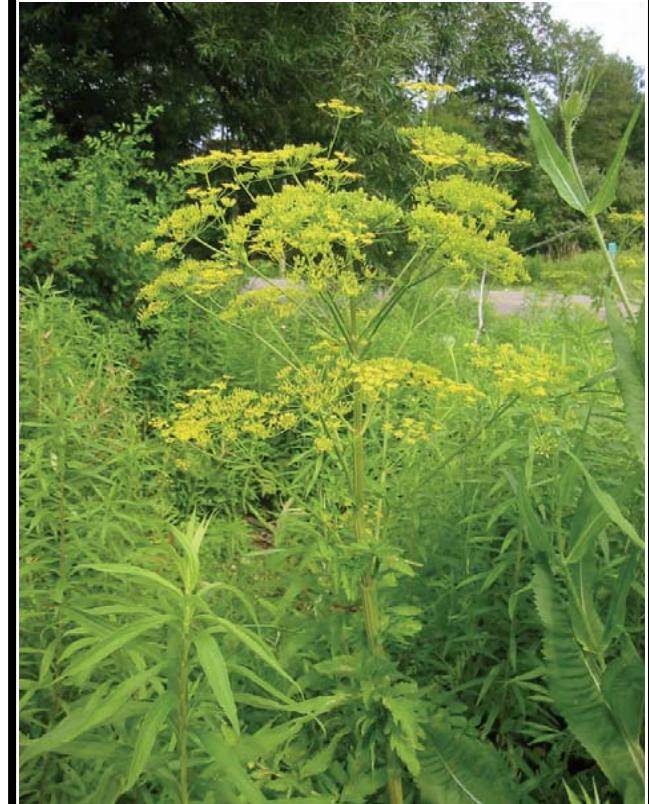
Seeding, Fall



Rosette, Late Summer- Fall



**BEWARE OF
WILD PARSNIP
(*Pastinaca sativa*)**



Wild Parsnip has been in the news recently because of its harmful characteristics and concern over its increased spreading over the countryside.

This plant has become a weed of special concern along roadsides, abandoned areas and in grassed lands. Like many other introduced plants, it is very aggressive and spreading rapidly.

**Wright Soil and Water Conservation District
311 Brighton Avenue S. Suite C**

Buffalo, MN 55313

(763) 682-1970

<http://www.wrightswcd.org>



Why Be Concerned

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is the most recent addition to Wright County's Invasive Specie List. This rapidly spreading plant is a native of Europe and Asia that was once grown as a root vegetable and escaped from agriculture. Wild Parsnip is "biennial" meaning its presence remains all year long while reoccurring and seeding the following year. Wild Parsnip moves into disturbed habitats and invades slowly, but once established and seeded it spreads rapidly choking out other forms of vegetation. Wild Parsnip survives in nearly any condition and is commonly found along road ditches and railroad tracks, in pastures and grasslands. Avoid skin contact with the toxic sap of the plant tissue. The sap of Wild Parsnip in contact with skin and in the presence of sunlight can cause a rash, blistering or discoloration of skin (phytophotodermatitis). The rash is very painful and may last several months or longer. This rash can also lead to scarring. The highest risk for Wild Parsnip infection is at the time of flowering from the months of June through September.



Treatment



Once the toxin is absorbed into the skin and is exposed to sunlight, reaction is inevitable.

Immediately cover exposed skin.

To Relieve Symptoms:

- Cover affected area with a cool, wet cloth.
- If blister(s) appears, try not to rupture as long as possible.
- To avoid infection, keep area clean and apply antiseptic cream.

Concerns:

More people are coming into contact with Wild Parsnip due to its rapid spread into open habitats and roadsides. Individuals who are constantly working, hiking or involved in activities around Wild Parsnip should be informed of the harmful health effects if contact is made with the plant.

During the month of July, Wild Parsnip is one of the dominant yellow flowered weeds in many roadsides and other right-of-ways.

Wild Parsnip is being seeded manually around the County by mowing decks, ATV's, snowmobiles, and mulch. Seeds also disperse naturally by wind and water.

Botanical Basics

Life History: Wild Parsnip typically lives for two years. The first year, as a spindly rosette of leaves, it keeps fairly low to the ground while the plant's carrot-like taproot develops. It may live up to two years this way until conditions are right for flowering. The second year, a hollow grooved flower stalk rises 2 to 5 feet high, first holding clusters of yellow flowers and later dozens of flat, oval seeds.

Leaves: Pinnately compound, with a main stem and 5 to 15 leaflets.

Flowers: Yellow, flat-topped, umbrella like clusters at the top of the plant.

Season: Wild Parsnip rosettes are among the first to become green in spring with its flowers turning a prominent yellow in midsummer. After flowering and going to seed, plants die and turn brown in fall but first year rosettes remain green until frost.

Habitat: Roadsides, abandoned fields, fence rows, unmowed pastures, railroad right-of-ways, prairie restorations, and open grasslands.

