



Wild Parsnip leaves and flower umbel

- **Leaves:** green and compound with saw toothed edges
- **Stem:** green, deeply grooved and hollow. Stands between 5 and 150 cm
- **Roots:** thick funnel shaped taproot, max. depth 1.5 m
- **Flowers:** small, yellow flowers growing in clusters to form a flat umbrella-shaped umbel
- **Seeds:** flat, smooth, round and 5 to 7 mm long



Wild Parsnip basal rosette



Seed production (left). Seeds drying up and beginning to fall off (right).

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WILD PARSNIP (*Pastinaca sativa*)

Best Management Practices



CAUTION: Wild Parsnip sap may cause **vision impairment** and **skin irritation**, which makes the skin prone to severe burning and blistering when exposed to the sun.

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Wild Parsnip is a tall, monocarpic perennial (flowering once before dying) that grows quickly, out competing native plant species by forming dense stands.

Wild Parsnip spends the first year or more as a basal rosette.



Wild Parsnip invading an agricultural field

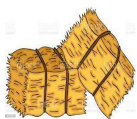
IMPACTS



Infested crops unsalable as food grade quality and unmarketable as seed



Chemicals inhibit weight gain and fertility in livestock



Infested hay unsalable as food for livestock



Out competes native flowers. Honeybees do not visit Wild Parsnip

Regardless of the management option, always wear protective clothing and eye protection when controlling Wild Parsnip



Infested areas should be mowed as soon as the umbel starts to flower, but **BEFORE** seeds set to prevent seed production. Mowing after seed production can increase Wild Parsnip populations.



For **SMALL** infestations, remove Wild Parsnip plants using a shovel. The best times for removal are after rain when the ground is soft, or during times of drought (when the taproot shrinks).



Cover the ground with a tarp to smother new growth following other control methods like mowing or digging. Leave tarp for at least one full growing season and replant following tarping to rehabilitate the area.



Target the Wild Parsnip plants with a systematic herbicide on the rosettes in the early spring or fall. Treating Wild Parsnip in full flower may not prevent seed production.



In agricultural areas, seasonally tilling the soil to prevent Wild Parsnip from infesting agricultural fields.

MOWING TIMING

Below are GENERAL timing guidelines. The best mowing time may differ based on individual plants. **Do not mow if the plant has gone to seed.**



Wild Parsnip in seed

MOST EFFECTIVE MOWING TIMES:



June: Mow when the umbel starts to flower



Early July: Mow if umbel is flowering but not gone to seed



Late July Onward: Do not mow plants that have gone to seed

DISPOSAL

After removal, **DO NOT** burn. Leave the stems at the removal site to completely dry out at least one week.

NOTE: If seeded, **DO NOT** compost. Place the weeds in a black garbage bag and dispose with household garbage.

RESTORATION

After control, replant the area with native species to prevent re-infestation

MONITORING

Monitoring should be repeated throughout the growing season to ensure plants are not re-sprouting.