

Identification

Wild Parsnip is a monocarpic perennial or biennial, spending one or more years as a rosette before flowering.

Rosettes

Young plants form a rosette of pinnately compound leaves with 5-15 leaflets with sharply toothed edges. Rosettes are less than 1ft tall and are one of the first plants to green in the spring.



Flowering Plants

Adult plants send up a flowering stem, bloom late spring through summer, then die after producing seed. It produces a single long, thick taproot.

Flowers: Tiny yellow flowers are arranged in flat-topped umbels 2-6" wide at the tops of stems and branches.



Stems: Stems are stout, grooved, hollow, and can grow up to 5ft tall.

Leaves: Large rosette leaves at base, small bract-like leaves alternate along stem.

Seeds: In late summer, the flowering tops will begin to produce seeds and turn brown.



Identification information provided by Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition.

Additional Resources

- <https://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2017/06/Burn.PDF>
- http://nyis.info/invasive_species/wild-parsnip/
- <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/WildParsnipBCP.pdf>

Dangerous Plant Alert!



Wild Parsnip: Don't Get Burned!



Photo by Kevin Albert

Wild Parsnip is a fast-spreading invasive plant that can cause serious burns to humans and pets. It has spread throughout

much of the U.P. including areas around Pickford and Rudyard. Acting together as a well-informed community, we have an opportunity to prevent it from overtaking Clark Twp and the Les Cheneaux Region. Please join the effort.

The Problem

Wild Parsnip is a dangerous invasive most often found on roadsides and in open areas. The sap of the leaves, stems, flowers, and fruit can cause severe burns if they get on the skin and then the skin is exposed to sunlight. This is not an allergic reaction – it is a chemical reaction known as phytophotosensitivity. It affects both humans and pets.

Contact with the sap is possible any time the plant is broken and/or bruised. If contact occurs, it is important to wash the area with warm water and soap, and to avoid sun exposure for at least 8 hours.

Controlling Wild Parsnip is very difficult once populations become established, as is the case in many parts of Michigan. Some individual plants and small patches have been found in our immediate area, so it is crucial that we act now.



Photo by Wild Rivers
Invasive Species Coalition

The Solution

- ◆ Learn to identify Wild Parsnip and watch for it in the course of your daily activities. Avoid contact, and help keep children and pets away.
- ◆ Report any sightings by visiting www.tinyurl.com/reportwildparsnip or calling the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation at 906-484-2484. Please share detailed information about the location, as well as your contact information in case follow-up is needed. A volunteer will come out to confirm identification and implement non-toxic control methods.
- ◆ Distribute this brochure to neighbors and friends. Talk about Wild Parsnip and encourage others to get involved.

Control Methods

We do not recommend that residents attempt to pull or destroy Wild Parsnip on their own due to the risks involved. A brief overview of control methods follows for educational purposes; for more information, see “Resources” at the back of this pamphlet.

Small populations of Wild Parsnip may be controlled by pulling, cutting the root 1” below the soil, or mowing at the correct time of year. Long sleeves, gloves, socks and shoes, and face protection are a must for all methods. Once pulled or cut, the plant cannot be left where it is, as it still poses a risk to anyone who may come in contact with it. A pulled or cut plant can also still develop viable seeds in some cases.

Herbicides may also be used, but are best reserved for larger populations, which we hope to avoid in the Les Cheneaux area.

When controlling Wild Parsnip, a consistent approach over several years is vital. A patch that is destroyed is still likely to come back the next year - it does not mean the first effort was unsuccessful, just that repeated efforts are necessary. There may be dormant seeds in the soil for up to four years.