



Anthriscus sylvestris

WA – Class B Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

Wild Chervil

Cow Parsley, Indian Mallow, Buttonweed

Family: Umbelliferae

Origins: Native to Europe, the first reported sighting in Washington was in 1988 in Spokane.

Range: Found throughout Washington State and is considered naturalized in the Eastern United States.

Habitat: Commonly found along roadsides, pastures, forest edges, and in waste areas. Wild Chervil is highly adaptable and will grow in nearly every soil type.

Impact: Wild Chervil has an aggressive growth habit, quickly creating monocultures, posing a serious threat to native plants and agriculture. It reduces forage species for grazing animals and causes mold in hay due to the long dry time of the stem. Wild Chervil reproduces by seed and can regrow from the root if not entirely removed.

Wild Chervil is a common ingredient in British wildflower seed mixtures. Review the ingredients of wildflower mixes to avoid accidental introduction, and avoid using wildflower mixes with unidentified seed components.

Description: Wild Chervil is an upright biennial or short-lived perennial. It grows from a long taproot and can reach up to 4 feet tall. Leaves are shiny, alternate, finely divided, fern-like, and slightly hairy. Plants have basal and stem leaves; stem leaves reduce in size up the stem. The stems are hollow and ridged, hairy on the lower portions and smooth on the upper portions of the plant. Small, white flowers grow in umbels that can reach 3 inches wide. Flowers bloom from April to May.

Common Look-Alikes: Bur Chervil, Rough Chervil, Wild Carrot, Poison Hemlock, Cow Parsnip, Water Hemlock.

** Wild Chervil is not known to be toxic. Look-alikes Poison Hemlock and Water Hemlock are highly toxic and may lead to death if ingested. Take extra precaution when identifying plants in the carrot/parsley family; many possess toxic properties.*



Images: Courtesy of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Mowing alone is not effective. Mowing 2 to 3 times before the plant develops flower heads will help reduce seed production. However, the plant will continue to regrow until the entire taproot has been removed.
Cultural	Repeat tilling of the land in the dry months may dry out the root portions brought to the surface and may help provide some control.
Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for Wild Chervil in Washington State.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants from bud to flower. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective and may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; for best results, use an appropriate surfactant; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Imazapyr (Imazapyr, Arsenal, Habitat)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants from bud to flower. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; may be harmful to some tree species; for best results, use an appropriate surfactant; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.