

Wild Chervil

Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) is an invasive biennial or short-lived perennial plant of the carrot family. The plant was introduced from Eurasia, and is becoming widely naturalized in eastern Canada where it is a weed of perennial forage crops and pastures. It is a noxious weed in Nova Scotia under the *Agricultural Weed Control Act and Weed Control Regulations*.

How to Identify Wild Chervil

A rosette of leaves in its first year, with a flowering stem up to 1.5 meters in later years. Looks similar to Queen Anne's Lace, Caraway, and Sweet Cicely.

Leaves Pinnately compound, triangular in shape, fern-like in appearance. Leaves alternate along the stem with the base clasping along the stem as well. Slightly hairy underneath.

Stem Grooved, branched, hollow, covered in small hairs.

Flowers Small white flowers in large compound umbels, blooming from, late May through July.

Seeds occur in pairs, greenish brown to dark brown, smooth and shiny, elongated oval in shape. 5–10mm long, cylindrical and tapering to a beak.

Roots Thick tuberous taproot, extending up to 2 meters deep.

Habitat and Characteristics of Wild Chervil

Grows in a variety of soil types, found in ditches, dykes, roadsides, meadows, pasture, perennial forage fields, stream banks and hedge rows.

Spreads by seed, forming dense patches through root budding.

Aggressively competes for light, space, nutrients and water, often crowding out desirable vegetation.

Sometimes grazed, it has little nutritional value as a forage for livestock. If harvested in forage, it can reduce crop quality due to mold.

Wild Chervil also serves as a host for the parsnip yellow fleck virus, which can infect carrots, celery and parsnips.

Wild Chervil has been identified in Cape Breton, Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Lunenburg and Yarmouth counties.



How to remove and manage Wild Chervil

Caution: Some people may experience a rash from contact with plants in the carrot family. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

Seed spread is primarily due to attachment to machinery, soil movement or as a contaminant in harvested crop. Dense patches form through vegetative root budding and out-competing desirable vegetation. It is difficult to control due to its early flowering, extremely long tap root and tolerance to many herbicides.

Prevent seed production to reduce spread while controlling the deep tap root to eliminate individual plants or patches.

Do not harvest and transport wild chervil in hay or forage if seed is present.

Spring – before flower

Use a shovel to cut off or dig up as much of the root as possible, leaving root to dry in the sun. Regrowth may occur from root fragments left behind in soil.

Otherwise, broadcast or spot spray rosettes in early spring.

Late spring-summer

Mow at full bloom and repeat if necessary to prevent seed production. Repeat cuttings may deplete root reserves, but has not demonstrated adequate control. Mowing alone may encourage vegetative spread from root buds.

Otherwise, broadcast or spot spray up to full bloom stage, or spray regrowth after mowing.

Fall

Remove rosettes by digging them out, broadcast or spot treatment.

When using herbicides follow all label instructions carefully, including personal protective equipment. Please contact the Plant Protection Coordinator for specific herbicide recommendations.

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