



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St. Bellingham WA 98225
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WILD CARROT

Daucus carota

THREAT: Wild carrot, also called Queen Anne's lace, is native to Eurasia and has been introduced into much of North America. It is related, and similar in appearance, to the poisonous plant, poison hemlock, another introduced weed. Wild carrot has been spread as an ornamental and is often used in flower arrangements. This plant invades roadsides, meadows, pastures and disturbed areas. It can be a major problem if it invades fields of cultivated carrots. Wild carrot reproduces only by seed and each plant can produce up to 4000 seeds.



DESCRIPTION: Wild carrot is a member of the parsley family. The cultivated carrot was developed from this plant, which explains the similar foliage and carrot odor. Wild carrot is a biennial, generally producing a rosette of leaves in its first year and flowering in its second year. The leaves are fern-like and lacy, very similar to the leaves of cultivated carrot. The flowering stems are hollow, growing up to 4 feet tall, and the plant is covered in short, stiff hairs. Wild carrot flowers from July until the first killing frost. The small, white flowers are borne in flat-topped clusters, called umbels, which are 2 to 6 inches in diameter. There may be a single pinkish/purplish flower in the center of each umbel. When the flowers mature, the umbel often curls in upon itself, giving an appearance of a bird's nest. The taproot is carrot-like but white or yellowish-white in color. Wild carrot is a smaller plant than the similar poison hemlock, which can grow up to 10 feet. Poison hemlock has purple blotching on the stems, which wild carrot lacks. Since there are both edible and extremely poisonous plants that look very similar in this family, great care should be taken if collecting wild plants.



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Wild carrot can be controlled through mechanical or chemical methods. Hand digging is effective for small infestations, although care must be taken to remove the majority of the taproot. Repeated cultivation can also be effective for controlling wild carrot. For site-specific chemical control recommendations, contact the Weed Control Board.