

Wild Chervil

(*Anthriscus sylvestris*)



Key ID Features

Arrangement: alternate

Leaves: finely toothed, compound, fern-like leaflets

Flowers: white umbel

Fruit: seeds are black

Stem: grooved and hollow except for nodes

Root: thick taproot

Growth Habit: herbaceous biennial/perennial spends first year as rosette and eventually bolts and flowers, grows up to 3.25 ft. tall



The Impact

Wild Chervil (also called “Cow Parsley”) was introduced to the United States from Europe through wildflower mixes. Its white flowers are commonly seen along roadsides in early summer. Wild Chervil produces large quantities of seeds that spread via waterways, wind, mowers, and animals and enable the plant to form dense stands that outcompetes native plant species. Wild Chervil can damage forage crops, resulting in economic impacts.

WARNING: Wild Chervil contains toxins that can cause minor skin irritations so use caution and wear protective gloves when handling this plant.

Quick Facts

Plant Family: Apiaceae

Origin: Eurasia and NW Africa

Habitat: disturbed areas, floodplains, meadows and fields, commonly found along roadsides

Present in Vermont?: yes

Method of Spread: primarily by seeds dispersed via waterways, mowers, wind, and animals

Status: watchlist* species
<http://bit.ly/VWatchlist>

**The watchlist has no regulatory force but is used to educate the public about potentially problematic plants*



Invasive: Wild Chervil

Robert Videki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Common Look-alikes



Golden Alexanders

Queen Anne's Lace

Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org

Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org

Distinguishing features

Flower: yellow umbel

Distinguishing features

Leaf: smaller, less triangular

Native Plant Alternatives



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Donald Cameron 2019

Flat-topped Aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*): attracts bees, butterflies, moths, grows in variety of soils

White Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*): attracts butterflies, grows well in sunny and moist areas

Control Information

To learn more about identification & control options, check out the Gallery of Land Invasives on ***VTinvasives.org*** and these additional resources:

<https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/wild-chervil-control.pdf>

References: [EDDMaps Ontario - Species - Wild Chervil](#), [Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program - Wild Chervil](#), [Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Wild Chervil](#), [Noxious Weeds in King County, Washington - Wild Chervil](#)

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