

CAUTION: Wild Parsnip sap may cause vision impairment and skin irritation which makes the skin prone to severe burning and blistering when exposed to the sun.



Wild Parsnip

(*Pastinaca sativa*)

- **Leaves:** green and compound with saw toothed edges
- **Stem:** green, deeply grooved and hollow. Stands between 5 and 150 cm
- **Roots:** thick funnel shaped taproot, max. depth 1.5 m
- **Flowers:** small, yellow flowers growing in clusters to form a flat umbrella-shaped umbel
- **Seeds:** flat, smooth, round and 5 to 7 mm long

**LANARK
COUNTY**

Wild Parsnip is a tall, monocarpic perennial (flowering once before dying) that grows quickly, out competing native plant species by forming dense stands. Wild Parsnip spends the first year or more as a basal rosette.

Regardless of the management option, always wear protective clothing and eye protection when controlling Wild Parsnip



Mow



Dig



Tarp

Infested areas should be mowed as soon as the umbel starts to flower, but **BEFORE** seeds set to prevent seed production. Mowing after seed production can increase Wild Parsnip populations (See reverse for timing).

For **SMALL** infestations, remove Wild Parsnip plants using a shovel. The best times for removal are after rain when the ground is soft, or during times of drought (when the taproot shrinks).

Cover the ground with a tarp to smother new growth following other control methods like mowing or digging. Leave tarp for at least one full growing season and replant following tarping to rehabilitate the area.

MOWING TIMING

Below are GENERAL timing guidelines. The best mowing time may differ based on individual plants. **Do not mow if the plant has gone to seed.**

MOST EFFECTIVE MOWING TIMES:

- ✓ **June:** Mow when the umbel starts to flower
- ⚠ **Early July:** Mow if umbel is flowering but not gone to seed
- ⊘ **Late July Onward:** Do not mow plants that have gone to seed



DISPOSAL

Once you have removed Wild Parsnip plants from the ground, **DO NOT** burn. Leave the stems at the removal site allowing them to completely dry out for at least one week. Place the weeds in a black garbage bag and dispose with household garbage.

Note: If the removed Wild Parsnip plants have seeded, **DO NOT** compost. Place the seeds, if clipping, in a black garbage bag and allow to sit in the sun for at least a week before disposing with household garbage.

RESTORATION

After control, replant the area with native plant species to prevent re-infestation.

MONITORING

Monitoring should be repeated throughout the growing season to ensure plants are not re-sprouting.



Wild Parsnip during seed production.



Seeds drying up and beginning to fall off the plant.