



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 901 W. Smith Road Bellingham WA 98226
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WILD CHERVIL

Anthriscus sylvestris

THREAT: Wild chervil, a plant native to Europe, has become naturalized in much of northeastern North America. It is related to poison hemlock and wild carrot, two other introduced weeds that are quite similar in appearance. Wild chervil first appeared along roadsides in Washington State, and is capable of forming dense stands from the seed alone. This weed invades pastures, roadsides, fencerows and waste areas, and may be introduced into areas as part of British wildflower seed mixes.



DESCRIPTION: Wild chervil, a biennial or short-lived perennial, is a member of the parsley family. It grows 1-4 feet tall from a taproot. The stems are hollow; hairy in the lower portions, smooth in upper portions of the plant. The leaves are finely divided, fernlike, and slightly hairy, especially on the lower surface. Flowers are white and form clusters in an umbrella shape. Each flower produces 2 joined seeds, about ¼ inch long, that are narrow, smooth and shiny dark brown. The seeds of wild chervil distinguish it from the similar wild carrot and poison hemlock, which also have fernlike leaves, a taproot and white umbel flowers. Wild chervil blooms earlier than wild carrot and is a much smaller plant than poison hemlock, which can grow up to 10 feet.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Wild chervil 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. Mowing or pulling the tops is ineffective, as the plant will regenerate from the crown. No biological control agents have been found to control wild chervil, so containment and prevention of new infestations is the best control. For site-specific chemical control recommendations, contact the Weed Control Board.

