

Wild chervil

Anthriscus sylvestris

Description

This plant is edible. It is also considered to be a natural mosquito repellent.

Habit

Biennial; grows 3-4 ft but can grow up to 6 ft; tuberous roots are aggressive and spread rapidly.

Leaves

Fern-like, nearly hairless (some hairs on lower surface), divided into smaller leaflets which in turn are also divided, leaf bases surround stem, can grow over 1 ft long.

Stems

Hollow and furrowed; soft-hairy below, smooth above; fringe of hairs at stem nodes.

Flowers

White in color, 5 petals, produced in umbels (umbrella-like cluster) at end of stems, produces 2 joined seeds with small antenna-like structures





at the top; blooms May through June.

Fruits and Seeds

About 1/4 inch long, at first green, then shiny dark brown at maturity.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in woods, roadsides, prairies, hayfields, pastures, waste places, and disturbed areas.

Reproduction

By seed and lateral budding at top of roots.

Similar

Fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*); Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*); Eastern hemlockparsley (*Conioselinum chinense*); Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*); Caraway (*Carum carvi*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling, cut at or below soil level, mowing; effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as clopyralid and dicamba.

Credits

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