

Queen Anne's lace

Daucus carota

Description

Introduced to North America from Europe as a medicinal herb and is now naturalized throughout the continent. This species is listed under <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest/plant-health-certification-and-export/seed> Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation as a restricted noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Erect, herbaceous, biennial, grows 2-4 ft in height. Root system is comprised of a long slender white taproot and fibrous secondary roots. Roots may become woody with age and have a carrot-like odor and taste.

Leaves

Basal, alternate, pinnately compound with 1 to several finely divided, fern-like leaflets. Leaves increase in size toward the base of the stem and have a carrot-like odor. Basal rosettes remain





green over winter. Upper leaves of second-year plants are stalkless with white sheathes at leaf bases.

Stems

Erect, hairy, hollow, grooved, branched at the top and may be reddish at the base.

Flowers

Small, 5 petaled, white in color and occur in a terminal, umbrella-shaped cluster at the ends of the stems. Produces a succession of flowering stalks until it dies with the first frost. Primary umbel curls inward representing a birds nest.

Fruits and Seeds

Small brown fruits are dry and ribbed with bristly hairs. Fruits have hooked spines that attach to clothing or animal fur and aid in dispersal. One plant can produce 1,000 to 40,000 seeds.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in dry grasslands, fields, meadows, pastures, ditches, waste places, and railroad and highway right-of-ways.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Native American wild carrot (*Daucus pusillus*); Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*); Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).



Monitoring and Rapid Response

Use gloves when handling this plant. Hand-pulling or mow close to the ground before seed set in mid to late summer. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as 2,4-D and triclopyr.

Credits

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