

Wild Chervil

Anthriscus sylvestris

History and Location

- Invasive species. Member of the carrot/parsley family, native to Europe.
- Noxious weed, under the Ontario Weed Control Act and The Town of the Blue Mountains Long Grass and Weeds By-Law.
- Commonly found along cultivated field edges, roadsides, stream edges, and pastures.
- Abundant in various locations in the Town of the Blue Mountains and Grey County.
- When mature, out-competes native plants, and agricultural crops.
- Produces large amounts of seeds that spread easily.

How to Identify

- Wild Chervil is a biennial or short-lived perennial producing numerous compound Umbel Shaped clusters of white flowers.
- Flowers bloom usually from May to June. Seeds appear late June through July.
- Plant has alternately arranged, compound, fern-like leaves.
- Stems are entirely green, ridged, and hollow. Portions of the stem are smooth while lower portions are hairy.
- Plants are upright and can grow to 1-1.5m in height.
- Chervil resembles other plants in the carrot/parsley family, such as Wild Carrot (Queen Anne's Lace).
- Wild Chervil can be easily recognized because it is the first species in the carrot/parsley family to flower in late spring.





Impacts and Spread

- Wild chervil has the ability to out-compete native plants in ditches, woodlot edges and pasturelands.
- This plant can play host to a disease, which affects carrots, celery, and parsnips.
- Human activity, wind, water, birds, and other wildlife are all factors in the spread of wild chervil seed.
- It is extremely hard to control because of its large taproot and is resistant to many herbicides.
- Wild Chervil is known to spread rapidly and aggressively along ditches, road right of ways, fence lines, and pasturelands.
- It is important to remove the entire plant as leaving some pieces behind will result in re-sprouting.
- Repeated mowing of this plant before it has gone to seed can deplete the root reserve resulting in its eventual decline.

Your Help

If you suspect Wild Chervil is growing on your property or you see Wild Chervil in the Town of The Blue Mountains, please contact By-Law Services at 519-599-3131 ext. 249 or email bylawinfo@thebluemountains.ca

