

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **WILD CHERVIL**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Anthriscus sylvestris*

FAMILY: *Apiaceae*

ORIGIN: Europe

US INTRODUCTION: Date unknown, may have been introduced to North America as part of a wildflower seed mix

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

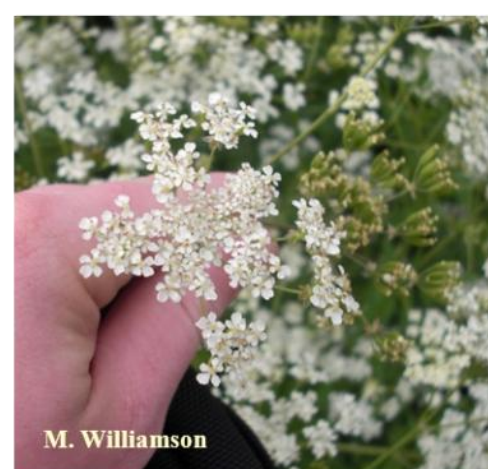
- Mowing (after seed set)
- Wind

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Herbaceous biennial, grows up to 3.25 feet. in height, blooms from May to June, spreads by seed
- Stems hollow and covered in hairs
- Leaves alternate, compound, and fern-like; each segment of the leaf can measure 0.5-2 inches in length
- Inflorescence (flower head) umbrella-shaped (umbel)
- Flowers white with 5 notched petals
- Fruits green, smooth, lanceolate in shape and measure 0.25 inches long with a pronounced beak that measures 0.04 inches long. Fruits brown as they ripen
- Threatens riparian corridors, wetlands, and wet prairie



Leaves and stem



Flower



Population in Kane County, Illinois

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

There are many other members of the carrot family that could be encountered and look similar to *Anthriscus sylvestris*. Fruits are necessary for the proper identification of these species, but several easy-to-see characteristics can help you determine if you have found wild chervil or not.

Native water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) has smooth, purple spotted stems, wild chervil does not have purple blotching. Rare Chinese hemlock parsley (*Conioselinum chinense*), and more common sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza* sp.) are native and are often found in more shaded wooded habitats compared to wild chervil. The leaves of invasive the hedge parsleys (*Torilis japonica* and *Torilis arvensis*) are sparse and have 3 toothed leaflets, unlike the more fernlike leaves of wild chervil. Weedy Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*) has larger flat-topped flower umbels, with densely packed white flowers, when crushed, it smells like carrots. Invasive poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) can grow 4-10 feet tall and the stem is hairless and purple blotched.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England.

<http://nbii-ninchesciencesinchesolumbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specield=39>

USDA Plants Database.

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ansy>

Weed of the Week.

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/wild-chervil.pdf