



RISO

INVASIVE PLANT

# Wild chervil

*Anthriscus sylvestris*

DECEMBER 2024



[BCINVASIVES.CA](https://bcinvasives.ca)

## ABOUT

Native to Europe, wild chervil is thought to have been introduced through wildflower seed mixes. It will take over many habitats, but particularly thrives in wet, disturbed soil. It is very difficult to remove because of its long taproot and tendency to grow near bodies of water, which make many herbicides unusable. Wild chervil competes with native plants and hay crops, harming both the economy and environment.

## LEGAL STATUS

Noxious Weed (Regional), *BC Weed Control Act*.

## DISTRIBUTION

Wild chervil is mostly distributed throughout the southern portion of the province. It is also known to be prevalent in the Abbotsford-Chilliwack area of the Fraser Valley.

## IDENTIFICATION

**Flowers:** Small white flowers comprised of five petals growing 3 inch umbrella shaped clusters near the top of the plant.



L. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org

**Stems/Stalks:** Hollow stems that typically range in height from 0.3-1.8 m. Stems are covered by fine hairs near the base of the plant and become smooth towards the top of the stem.

**Leaves:** Leaves are dark green, fern-like and have fine hairs on the underside of each leaf, they are triangular shaped and decrease in size as they travel up the stem.

**Fruits:** Each flower produces two joined seeds about 6-7 mm in length. They are smooth, shiny and dark brown.

**Similar Species:** There are a few species that can easily be confused with Wild chervil. Some include bur chervil (*Anthriscus caucalis*), rough chervil (*Chaerophyllum temulum*) and Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*). Bur chervil can be easily distinguished from wild chervil by its rounder and lighter green leaves. Rough chervil can be distinguished by the purple spots on its stem. Queen Anne's lace can be distinguished by its unique reddish-purple flower found in the center of its umbel of white flowers.

## ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Habitat:** Prefers wet to moist disturbed sites such as pastures, fields, roadsides, and fence lines. Will grow in a variety of soils but prefers low to mid elevation.



**Reproduction:** Wild chervil is a biennial or short-lived perennial. It reproduces primarily by seed, but can also grow from root buds, which are found near the top of the root. No studies have been done to determine the long-term viability of the seeds, but it is expected that they can survive for a few years.

**Dispersal:** Seeds are typically spread by water, birds, animals, and human activity.

## IMPACTS

**Ecological:** Wild chervil tends to shade smaller plants due to its size. It competes with other plants for light, space, water, and nutrients, posing a threat to riparian areas.

**Economic:** Can compete with hay crops, decreasing value of hay and forage. It is very difficult to remove because it has deep roots and is resistant to some herbicides. Wild chervil is a host to the viral yellow fleck virus that infects carrots, celery, and parsnips, harming crops. Livestock will avoid grazing on mature plants.

# INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

*IPM is a decision-making process that includes identification and inventory of invasive plant populations, assessment of the risks that they pose, development of well-informed control options that may include a number of methods, site treatments, and monitoring.*

## **Prevention:**

- ▶ Most easily eradicated when plants are young.
- ▶ Cleaning gear, equipment, and pets fur before moving to another location can help limit spread.
- ▶ Don't plant invasive species in gardens, instead refer to the Grow Me Instead program to find native alternatives.

## **Mechanical Control:**

- ▶ Hand pulling, (wear gloves to avoid skin irritation) or digging of rosettes and immature plants can be effective in small populations.
- ▶ Mature plants must be removed below the crown to prevent regrowth.
- ▶ Mowing may deplete the plants reserves and minimize spread but will not reduce populations even when repeated several times over many years. Mowing is best used at sites less than 25 m<sup>2</sup> where herbicide application is not permitted. (Province of BC, 2016)
- ▶ Smothering may be effective in certain smaller cases, but likely require follow up treatments. The area must be monitored carefully for regrowth afterwards.

**Biological Control:** There is no biocontrol for wild chervil in Canada.

**Chemical Control:** Herbicide recommendations and use must consider site characteristics and be prescribed based on site goals and objectives. Herbicide labels and other sources of information must be reviewed before selecting and applying herbicides.

- ▶ The use of herbicides is often prohibited near water bodies or in wet areas where wild chervil likes to grow.
- ▶ Aminocyclopyrachlor and chlorsulfuron are recommended for young actively growing plants. It should be applied to the foliage. This can be used in conjunction with some other herbicide treatments.
- ▶ Aminopyralid is recommended for plants just before the bud stage or during early flowering. Plants should be sprayed uniformly, no more than once per season.

- ▶ Dicamba, 2,4-D amine and Mecoprop-P are recommended for actively growing plants before flowering. This herbicide will not control the growth of new germinates. It should be used no more than twice per season.
- ▶ Imazapyr is recommended for young actively growing plants, however this herbicide is non-selective and will kill most plants it comes into contact with (not just wild chervil). It will also help to control new seedlings for a time after it is applied. This herbicide cannot be used in areas where crops may be grown in the future.
- ▶ Glyphosate is recommended for young and actively growing plants. It is non-selective and will kill most if not all plants it comes into contact with (not just wild chervil). Spray it directly on the leaves of the plant, and it will be translocated throughout the plant. Plants will not absorb it through the soil. It can be applied closer to water bodies than most other herbicides.

## DISPOSAL

**Note:** *Disposal guidelines for invasive plants vary by region. Contact your local government for specific disposal information.*

- ▶ Chemically treated material can be left on site to compost.
- ▶ Bag all manually removed plant material and be careful to avoid dispersing the seeds.
- ▶ Dispose of flower heads and plants at a transfer station for disposal. This will ensure the plant matter is properly transported and disposed of at the landfill. All cut plant parts should undergo deep burial (at least 5 m deep) at a landfill.
- ▶ Do not compost or put in yard waste.

## REPORT

Report invasive species by using the mobile Report-Invasives-BC app for Apple and Android platforms, available for download at <https://bcinvasives.ca/take-action/report/>.

You can also report any invasive species through the ISCBC website, through [info@bcinvasives.ca](mailto:info@bcinvasives.ca) or at 1-888-933-3722.

## REFERENCES/LINKS

Best Management Practices for Wild Chervil in the Metro Vancouver Region. <https://metrovancover.org/services/regional-planning/Documents/wild-chervil-best-management-practices.pdf>

King County Noxious Weeds — Wild chervil identification and control. <https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/wild-chervil-control.pdf>

Weed Control Handbook. ucdavis.edu. [https://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr\\_A/Anthriscus\\_caucalis-sylvestris.pdf](https://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr_A/Anthriscus_caucalis-sylvestris.pdf)

Wild chervil *Anthriscus sylvestris* — Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board. <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/wild-chervil>

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**Invasive Species  
Council of BC**

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFO