

Wild Chervil

Anthriscus sylvestris

Description: Wild chervil, a biennial or short-lived perennial, is a member of the parsley family. It grows 1-4 feet tall from a taproot. The stems are hollow; hairy in the lower portions and smooth in upper portions of the plant. The leaves are finely divided, fernlike, and slightly hairy, especially on the lower surface. Flowers are white and form clusters in an umbrella shape. Each flower produces 2 joined seeds, about ¼ inch long, that are narrow, smooth and shiny dark brown. The seeds of wild chervil distinguish it from the similar wild carrot and poison hemlock, which also have fernlike leaves, a taproot and white umbrella flowers. Wild chervil blooms earlier than wild carrot and is a much smaller plant than poison hemlock, which can grow up to 10 feet. A strong distinguishing characteristic to identify this species from others is the ridges on the stems as well as the lack of odor of the foliage that is present with poison hemlock, etc.



Impacts: Wild chervil is listed as a “B Designate” on the state noxious weed control list and is mandated for control in Thurston County. Experience has shown that Wild Chervil is highly adaptable; growing in sandy, gravelly, loamy, wet or well-drained areas, with low to high light intensities and varying degrees of soil fertility. Most of Thurston County is highly susceptible to infestation. The plant’s fast growth, large size, and ability to create monocultures poses a serious threat to native plants, crops and agriculture.



Anthriscus sylvestris (L.) Hoffm.
Image processed by Thomas Schoepke
www.plant-pictures.de

Control Options:

► Manual Techniques

Research conducted on a portion of the Black River Unit of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge south of Olympia, WA showed that tillage and seeding of grass species provides less than 50% control of wild chervil after two consecutive years. Tilling the area during the drought stress portions of the year; July, August, and September is the most effective control measure when coupled with a springtime herbicide application. Tilling brings the storage roots of the plant out of the ground surface where they dry out and no longer sprout. However, the tillage must take place several times and it will not prevent seed production in the wet months; March-June.

Extensive manual removal attempts have been performed near the Black River research site and were found to be ineffective. Cutting of wild chervil was done in May and by mid-June all of the plants had re-grown and were re-blooming. Digging and pulling of wild chervil was then tried but re-growth occurred from these practices also. Re-blossom on most sites took only about 10 days. In 2002, more than 10,000 lbs of chervil was removed from county rights of way using manual methods.

► Cultural Control

After removal or final tillage of wild chervil; seeding or replanting the area with a beneficial species is recommended. Native plant communities provide competition which makes the area less prone to re-infestation.

► **Chemical Techniques**

Combining herbicidal treatment and tillage has shown about 80% (*glyphosate*) to about 98% (*imazapyr*) control of wild chervil in a single season. Currently, products containing the active ingredient *glyphosate* are the only herbicides for the control of wild chervil that are considered “low in hazard” by Thurston County’s pesticide review process. Products containing the active ingredient *imazapyr* are considered “moderate in hazard” and are the County’s second choice for herbicide control.

Only products with concentrated formulations of *glyphosate* will be effective. Pre-mixed products do not contain enough *glyphosate* to be effective, use products with at least 40% *glyphosate* .

Foliar applications of ROUNDUP PRO™ (a 41% *glyphosate* product): Wild chervil control can be achieved by using no less than 1% *glyphosate*

Rates, at 4 lb. per gallon A.I.:	1 Percent
To 1 gallon of water add	1.33 oz. ROUNDUP PRO™

- Spot applications with glyphosate products are effective. Spot application means the herbicide is applied only to the plants and not on the surrounding plants or soil. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves enough to be wet but not dripping.
- Remove domestic livestock before application and wait 14 days after spot application before grazing livestock or harvesting.
- Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval of 12 hours. Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.

Foliar applications of *imazapyr* (Habitat™), (Arsenal™)

- **Licensed applicators are required to use this product.**
- Spot applications with *imazapyr* products are effective.
- Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.
- Do not use on lawns walks driveways or similar areas where roots of desirable vegetation may extend and be exposed to potential injury.

Timing:

- Control should take place in April and May during the rosette stage prior to blossom, to prevent seed production.
- Control of wild chervil should be performed anytime the plant is actively growing but prior to seed set.

READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS. Obey all label precautions and safety measures. Always use personal protective equipment that includes coveralls, waterproof gloves, shoes plus socks, and protective eyewear. Use of brand names does not connote endorsement and is for reference only; other formulations of the same herbicides may be available under other names. Information provided is current as of the date of the fact sheet. Pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.



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