

# WILD CHERVIL

invasive  
fact sheet



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Wild chervil invades Vermont's fields and forests. It is easy to see in May and June when its white flowers are in bloom.

## The Problem

- Wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) spreads quickly. Seeds are dispersed by wind, mowers and animals. Plants also reproduce vegetatively by producing 5-10 crowns per plant.
- Chervil replaces native grasses and wildflowers.
- Hayfields can be destroyed by chervil. It produces poor quality forage and hay for grazing animals.
- It probably arrived in New England as a component of British wildflower seed mixes which were used to recreate the floral meadows of Britain. Wild chervil may still be found in some wildflower seed packets and buyers should make sure they have a complete list of plants within generic mixes that they are purchasing.

Recognize

wild chervil



white,  
delicate  
flowers

fern-like  
leaf

green plant,  
without flowers



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Wise On Weeds!

The Nature Conservancy, Montpelier, Vermont  
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[www.nature.org/vermont/weeds](http://www.nature.org/vermont/weeds)

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## ***For new infestations:***

New infestations should be treated rapidly before an extensive root system is established. Hand pull or dig up plants to ensure the entire tap root is removed. Check the site the next year for new growth.

## ***For large infestations:***

Mowing large patches of chervil will prevent it from setting seed. Do not mow after June, when the plant has already set its seeds. Clean all equipment well before using again. If possible, after mowing, cover ground with thick plastic or other ground cover.

## **THIS PLANT IS DIFFICULT TO MANAGE**

The best solution is to avoid the problem plant getting established in the first place. There is no known eradication method once it has been established. Be diligent and remove plants early on in their infestation.

**CAUTION!** This plant contains toxins that cause minor skin irritation. Wear appropriate clothing to prevent resinous substances from contacting skin.

## **Integrated Invasive Plant Management**

*Most landowners have more than one invasive plant species on their property. Before you head for the clippers, develop a management plan. A well-developed plan that is specific to your property will help you save time and money, increase long-term effectiveness and reduce the spread of invasives.*

- ✓ **Create land management goals.** Determine what natural features you are most interested in protecting and what wildlife management, forestry activities or trail building goals you have for the next five to 20 years, and what you want the land to be like in 200 years.
- ✓ **Map the invasive species on your property and the surrounding area.** Look for invasive plants along logging roads and trails, and other openings in the forest canopy. Roughly map the species that you find, and convey a sense of the size and density of the populations.
- ✓ **Practice Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).** Each year, walk your entire property. Look for and remove new occurrences of invasive species. Stay up to date on what invasive species are coming into your area.
- ✓ **Consider available resources and develop a timeline.** Be realistic with the time and money you have and set goals accordingly. Based on what resources you have available, time your work accordingly.
- ✓ **Determine a weed- or site-led management approach.** *Site-led management* is designed for the landowner interested in protecting a particular resource or natural feature from encroachment. *Weed-led management* approaches the problem from a single-species perspective. Your approach may change from one part of your property to another, depending upon the species present, natural features, vegetation types and land management goals.
- ✓ **Integrate invasive species prevention and management into all of your land management activities.** Certain land management activities may spread invasive species. Predict what activities (e.g. logging, construction of trails, roads or buildings) will cause future problems and take necessary precautions. For example, after spending time in an area that has invasive plants, check clothing for seeds and remove soil from shoe soles. Require that any logging, mowing, or excavation equipment that comes on your property is weed-free. Monitor new plantings, whether within designed landscapes or natural settings, for invasives that may have been present in imported soil. Before doing a cut in a timber stand, remove all invasives. Ask your forester to incorporate invasive plant management into your land management plan.