



JEFFERSON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

FACT SHEET

WILD CHERVIL (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)

- Wild chervil grows one to four feet tall.
- The stem is hollow and furrowed, with a fringe of hairs at the stem nodes.
- The leaves are shiny green, fern-like and finely divided, with some hairs on the lower surface.
- The white flowers are in umbrella-shaped heads.
- The thick, tuberous roots spread rapidly and taproots can extend over 6 feet into the soil.
- Member of the carrot family.

LOOK-A-LIKE PLANTS

Bur chervil (*Anthriscus caucalis*) grows in damp environments, similar to those occupied by wild chervil. The plants are very similar, but bur chervil is usually smaller.



It is not toxic but is very invasive.

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is common throughout Jefferson County particularly in Port Townsend. Also growing in damp environments, it is much taller than wild chervil (4 to 10 feet tall) and can be distinguished by having **NO HAIRS** anywhere and by **PURPLE SPOTS** on the stem. Poison hemlock is both toxic and very invasive. Control is required throughout Jefferson County.



WHY BE CONCERNED?

- Wild chervil is an extremely aggressive invader, particularly on roadsides and pastures.
- It outcompetes forage and vegetable crops, reducing agricultural production.
- It is very hard to control once established.

**Wild chervil is a Class B Noxious Weed.
Control is required in Jefferson
County.**

Distribution:

- Wild chervil is prevalent in the Eaglemount area, West Valley Road and Boulton Road. It has also been seen on Highway 101 and on Marrowstone Island.

Ecology:

- Wild chervil grows mainly in poorly-drained soils, often on stream or ditch banks, wet meadows or on roadsides.
- It is normally a biennial, producing an upright rosette of leaves the first year, then flowering the following May or June. However, plants may survive beyond the second year by developing sprouts on the side of the taproot.

CONTROL

Prevention and early detection are the best means of control.

- **Avoid** introducing soil or gravel from areas known to have wild chervil.
- **Remove** seedlings when young because they can usually be pulled easily and they have not had an opportunity to reproduce.
- **Replant** with a desirable (preferably native) plant species, to discourage reinfestation.
- **Dispose** of weeds properly, at least bag seed heads.
- **Monitor** the site for several years; promptly remove new seedlings.

DIGGING/HANDPULLING works best when the soil is moist and when plants are young.

MOWING is an ineffective means of control for wild chervil because it regenerates from the crown after mowing, often becoming tougher and more prolific.

HERBICIDES can be effective, but should always be applied with care. Do not apply herbicides over or near water bodies. Read the label to check that you are applying an herbicide in the right place, to the right plant, at the right time, and in the right amount.

Arsenal™ or other herbicides containing imazapyr can be used effectively on wild chervil, but some restrictions apply regarding the site. **Be sure to read and follow the label!**

Roundup™ or other herbicides containing glyphosate may also be used effectively, with fewer restrictions in place

Neither of the herbicides recommended is selective and they will therefore kill non-target plants. Wild chervil is most susceptible when young and growing rapidly. Most herbicides will not be effective when the plant is flowering.

WARNING: Wild chervil often grows close to water and any herbicide application near or over water requires a permit and a specially licensed applicator.



Wild chervil flowerhead

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