

# WEED NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2012

## WEED OF THE MONTH—Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)



Wild chervil is becoming increasingly prevalent on roadsides and in pastures in Jefferson County, especially on and near Eaglemount, West Valley and Larson Lake Roads. It is biennial or a short-lived perennial that forms a rosette the first year and flowers and seeds the second year. The stems are ridged and hollow, with a fringe of hairs at the stem nodes. The stems may have purple markings on them, but not the distinctive purple-red blotches of poison hemlock (see below). The white flowers usually bloom late May to June.

- Wild chervil can crowd out forage and vegetable crops, reducing agricultural production.
- Because its stems are slow-drying it can cause moldy hay.
- It can harbor diseases that affect carrots and parsnips.
- It is aggressive and hard to control once established.
- Hand-pulling is usually unsuccessful because stems and roots break easily and pieces left behind can resprout.
- Mowing is also ineffective because mowed plants regrow vigorously, plus mowing spreads seeds and roots.

**Because wild chervil is an especially severe problem on many county roads, a one-time only spraying is being considered as an option. The roads in question are Eaglemount, Old Eaglemount, Peterson, Larson Lake, West Valley, Center, Leland Valley (E & W) and Boulton Roads. All landowners on these roads have already been notified that spraying may take place and a public meeting will be held at the Tri-Area Community Center on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm, to take public input and discuss the issue.**

### Look-Alikes (both non-native and invasive)

(If you need help with plant ID please call the Weed Board—360-379-5610 ext 205)

**Bur chervil** (*Anthriscus caucalis*) grows in damp environments, similar to those occupied by wild chervil. The plants are similar, but bur chervil has lighter green leaves, is usually smaller (2 feet tall compared to 5 feet), and flowers earlier (March to April).



**Poison hemlock** (*Conium maculatum*) also grows in damp environments and is still bigger (up to 10 feet tall by July). It also has white, umbrella-like flowers, blooming from July through September. It is highly TOXIC and can be distinguished from other plants because it has NO HAIRS, and has purple blotches on the stem. It is very common in Port Townsend.



## FORT WORDEN WEED PULL—APRIL 21ST

**When:** Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10 am to 4 pm.

**Where:** Meet at 9:30 or 1:30 at the Matheson Room (upstairs in the Park Office) to get signed in.

**Why:** Our beautiful State Park is becoming infested with noxious weeds—poison hemlock, English ivy, Scotch broom and spurge laurel are the main culprits. Come and help to get rid of them, enjoy the park, get healthy outdoor exercise and maybe make some new friends!

**How:** Call 360-379-5610 ext. 205 or email [edixon@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:edixon@co.jefferson.wa.us) if you would like more information.



Spurge Laurel



Scotch Broom



Poison Hemlock



English Ivy

Poison hemlock has been a concern at Fort Worden for many years, mainly because it is toxic and grows close to camping areas. However, spurge laurel populations have increased rapidly in recent years and it is now seen as a serious threat to plant diversity. **Our park needs help!!**

## **CLASS A WEED IN PORT TOWNSEND**

**Milk Thistle (*Silybum marianum*)** has been seen (and controlled) on a couple of sites in Port Townsend.



Milk Thistle

It is a Class A Noxious Weed, meaning that eradication is required. It has a very limited distribution in Washington State. In the past it was grown for medicinal use and is still occasionally found in gardens. However, it is illegal to sell or buy milk thistle in Washington State and all existing plantings should be removed in order to prevent accidental spread.

Milk thistle is toxic to livestock when consumed in large quantities, and it forms dense stands in pastures and rangelands, crowding out crops or forage plants. The leaves are very distinctive, with white marbling on the shiny green leaves. Please inform the Weed Board if you think you see this plant.

**360-379-5610 ext 205 or [edixon@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:edixon@co.jefferson.wa.us)**