

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)



Figure 1 – Mature plant showing yellow flower umbel.



Figure 2 – Wild parsnip burns after sun exposure

A sun loving, invasive member of the carrot family. The WI DNR has labeled it as a **restricted invasive** because of its “potential to cause significant environmental or economic harm or harm to human health.” The long tap root is edible, but you can get sun-induced burns or rashes on your skin from the sap. The burns can be quite serious, blistering and leaving scars.

Identification

A sturdy plant with upright leaves growing up to 5’ tall with multiple yellow or yellow/green blooms. It is a perennial that can quickly overtake native plants in open fields, along roadsides and prairies especially. As a non-native plant it has no insects or diseases to help keep in in check.

Control Methods

With a small area of wild parsnip, you might be able to dig it out by getting in a few inches under the crown of the plant. Wear gloves, long pants and sleeves, goggles and do not expose to sunlight any skin that has come in contact with the plant.

Additional Information/Resources

- UW Extension Garden Fact Sheet [XHT1083 Wild Parsnip](#)
- New York Invasive Species Information [Wild Parsnip](#)
- Dane County UW Extension Horticulture Hotline [608-224-3721](tel:608-224-3721) (M-F, 9 am-12 noon, April 15 – October 31) or horticulture@countyofdane.com