

WILD PARSNIP

Pastinaca sativa



Be on the lookout for this invader!



WARNING
PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Description:

Tall, herbaceous biennial, dies after producing seed; up to 5 ft. in height; long, thick taproot. Stems are upright, unbranched, thick, hairy, and deeply grooved. Flowers have a similar appearance to dill. They grow up to 6" wide and bloom June through mid-July.

Habitat:

Open spaces such as prairies, savannas and fens. Commonly found in roadside ditches and open areas along streams and lakes. Tolerates a range of soil conditions. Shade intolerant.



Above shows Phytophotodermatitis from contact with wild parsnip. Chemicals found in leaves, stems, and flowers of wild parsnip can cause skin rashes, burns, and blisters, especially in the presence of sunlight. (Photo: USDA, APHIS PPO)

IDENTIFICATION

STEM



LEAVES



FLOWERS



Stems: Upright; unbranched; thick; hairy; deeply grooved.

Leaves: 6" long alternate leaves with 5-15 oval, smooth, toothed leaflets.

Flowers: Numerous, small, yellow in color, 5 petals, found in flat groupings up to 6" wide; blooms June through mid-July.

Seeds: Seeds are large, flat, round, yellowish; can remain viable for up to four years.

AVOID CONTACT WITH THIS INVASIVE

Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

Widespread throughout much of Northern Michigan particularly alongside roads and surface waters.

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Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council • www.watershedcouncil.org

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