

# INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

## Bur chervil (*Anthriscus caucalis*)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

#### DESCRIPTION

- Annual or biennial herb native to Europe and North-West Africa.
- Mature plants grow between 0.3-1 m tall and may reach 2 m when flowering.
- Stems are hollow, branched and often have hairs near the base and stem nodes.
- Alternate leaves appear fern-like with their triangular shape and fine divisions. Leaves may be hairy with hairs becoming less prominent as plants mature.
- Umbel shaped clusters of tiny, white flowers grow from leaf axils. Each flower has 5 notched petals and produces 2 small, brown seeds.
- Seeds are covered in short, thick, hooked prickles and an unarmed short stout beak.
- Taproots can reach 2 m deep and are thick and fibrous making mechanical removal challenging.

Bur chervil umbels

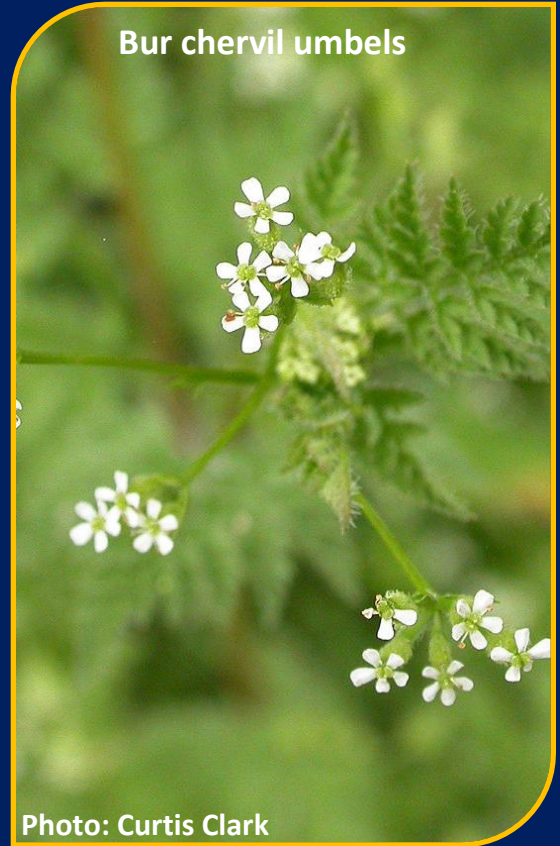


Photo: Curtis Clark

**PRIMARY THREATS:** Bur chervil can host a virus that can harm food crops such as celery, parsnip, and carrot. It is not palatable and outcompetes desirable species in pastures, reducing available forage for livestock.

Bur chervil plants



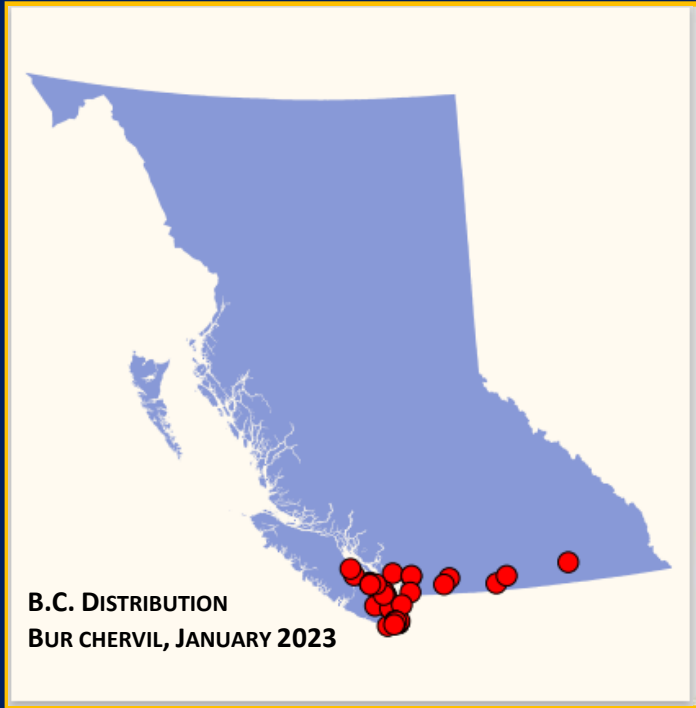
Photo: Michael Kesl

#### BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- Reproduces via seed with each plant producing up to 10,000 seeds per growing season.
- Bur chervil first forms a rosette and then bolts, blooms, and dies back to its root. This may happen in one or two seasons depending on when the seed germinates.
- Most seeds germinate after the first autumn rains or the next spring.
- The seeds have hooked prickles that easily cling to passing clothing, skin, and animal fur.



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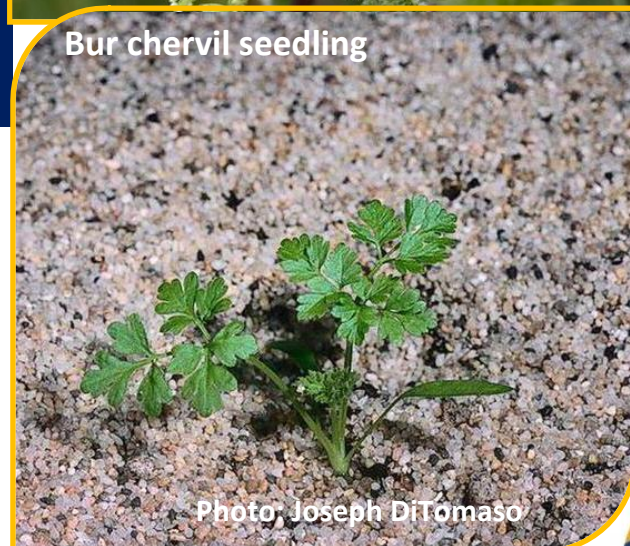


## HABITAT

- A highly adaptable plant, bur chervil can grow on roadsides, pastures, open woods, ditches, and riparian areas.
- It prefers sandy soils that are poor in nutrients and partial shade.

## DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Sites in BC are scattered across the far south with highest concentrations on Vancouver Island.
- Management goal is to reduce impacts and prevent spread to un-infested areas.



## REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



[www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** any sightings
- **Distinguish** from other white umbel species
- **Limit** land disturbance
- **Remove** seeds from clothes, pets, and shoes
- **Treat** before disturbing a site with digging, mowing, or machinery

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>

