

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)



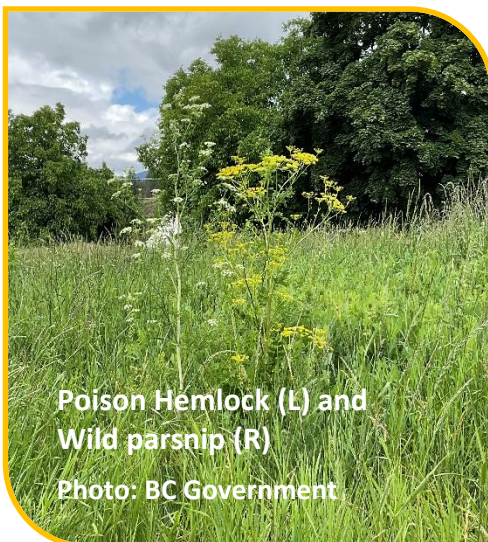
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Originally from Europe, the Caucasus, and Asia Minor.
- Perennial or biennial, taking up to 4 years to flower.
- Reaches heights of 0.5 – 2 m when in flower.
- Stem has a diameter of 2-5 cm; it is hollow, ribbed with sparse hairs.
- Leaves are alternate and pinnately compound with saw-toothed edges and are divided into 5 – 15 leaflets.
- Basal leaves are 40 cm long and 20 cm wide with leaves becoming smaller in size the further up the stem.
- Five petaled, yellowish green to bright yellow flowers bloom in umbels from early spring to July.
- Seeds are 4 – 8 mm long, flat and straw to light brown with 4 dark oil tubes on the outside surface.
- Root is conical, white and can grow to a depth of 1.5m.
- **CAUTION:** Stem, leaves, flowers and seeds contain a toxic sap.



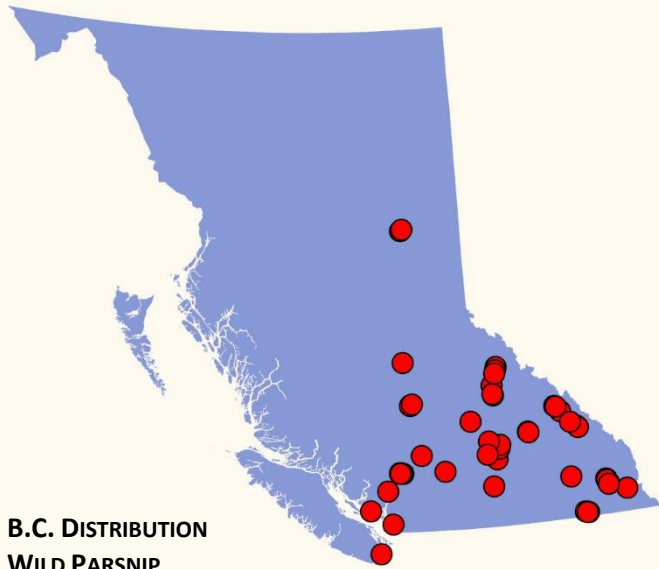
PRIMARY THREATS: Bare skin exposed to Wild Parsnip sap can cause phytophotodermatitis (extreme burns when exposed to sunlight). Additionally, the plant will outcompete native or desirable plants, reducing biodiversity and impacting agriculture, recreation and cultural values.



BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- May remain as a rosette for multiple years.
- Only reproduces via seed.
- Monocarpic- only flowers and produces seed once before it dies.
- Seeds are transported by wind, water, vehicles and equipment.
- Growth begins in spring and continues through to the autumn.
- Seeds may remain viable in the soil for 5 years.

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)



B.C. DISTRIBUTION
WILD PARSNIP
JANUARY 2023

HABITAT

- Preferred habitat include rights-of-way, roadside, trails, forest clearings, meadows, agricultural lands, drained ditches, and waste areas.
- Wild parsnip prefers full sun but will tolerate partial shade. In Canada, it grows in a wide variety of soil types and rainfall regimes but will not tolerate intermittent flooding.

DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Not listed under the BC *Weed Control Act*.
- Occurs in the Southern Interior, the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the Caribou, and the North-East.
- Management goal is provincial containment and reduction in extent.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Ensure** bikes, shoes, and vehicles are free of seed when leaving an infested area
- **Avoid** contact with sap
- **Grow** non-invasive alternatives
- **Treat** wild parsnip 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>

