

# POISON PARSNIP INFO SHEET

Wild (or Poison) Parsnip is a non-native plant that escaped cultivation and now grows wild, mainly along roadsides and in fields. Wild Parsnip contains a sap that can cause burns, painful rashes, and blisters on sun-exposed skin. The good news is that this parsnip is a biennial and if you stop new seeds, the existing plants die at the end of the second summer. Stop the seeds, and the parsnip is eliminated.



## With Patience, You CAN Remove Parsnip from Your Land

### STEP 1. DETECT



#### YEAR 1

First year growth stays low to the ground and resembles celery leaves. It is easiest to spot in the spring before surrounding plants/grasses grow tall. (ID with your eyes; **do not** touch or gather plant parts.)



#### YEAR 2

In year two, wild parsnip sprouts a hollow grooved stem growing 2 to 5 feet in height with **YELLOW** flowers similar in shape to Queen Anne's Lace.



## STEP 2. REMOVE

Be sure to **wear protective clothing**, including pants, a long sleeve shirt, work gloves and eye protection.

**Small patches (less than 100 plants)** can be controlled by slicing the taproot at least two inches below ground with a sharp shovel or pulling the entire taproot (see below). **Do not** burn or compost parsnip plants. Leave the stems to dry out completely at the site being careful not to spread the flowers/seeds. Alternatively, you may place plant material in black plastic bags and leave in direct sun for a week or more.



**Large patches (over 100 plants)** may be controlled by mowing if done long before the seeds set in July/August. Since parsnip out-competes other field species and **resprouts** a flowering stem, the field must be mowed again three weeks later.

## STEP 3. MONITOR

Be vigilant. Inspect the infestation site every few weeks to deal with any re-growth or missed plants. Seeds last up to four years in the wild, so simply return each spring in order to eradicate parsnip plants early in the growing season.

### If you get parsnip sap on your skin:

- Wash the area with soap and water.
- Keep the area out of sunlight for 48 hours.
- Wash any clothing that came into contact with the sap.

### For more information:

Please give us a call at 802-862-4150 or visit [www.lclt.org/parsnip/](http://www.lclt.org/parsnip/)

