WILD CHERVIL

Anthriscus sylvestris

- Other names: Indian mallow, butterprint, buttonweed
- Wild Chervil is a Class B Designate noxious weed.
- Wild Chervil is a biennial, or short-lived perennial from the Apiaceae Family and reproduces by seed.
- Wild Chervil grows from 1 to 4 feet tall. Stems are hollow and ridged, with a fringe of hairs at the stem nodes. Leaves are alternate, shiny green, slightly hairy, and fernlike in appearance. The base of each leaf surrounds the stem. Its small 5 petaled white flowers are arranged in umbels at the top of the plant, instead of the leaf axils, like Burr chervil. Wild Chervil produces 2 joined seeds, about ¼ inch long with 2 antennae-like styles at the top. Seeds are narrow, smooth, and shiny dark brown when ripe.
- Wild Chervil is found on roadsides, forest edges and in waste areas. It grows mainly in poorly-drained soils, often on stream or ditch banks and wet meadows.
- This plant is highly adaptable and will grow in almost any type of soil. It has an aggressive growth habit, quickly creating mono-cultures. Wild chervil poses a serious threat to native plants and agriculture. Most of Pierce County is highly susceptible to Wild Chervil.

CONTROL OPTIONS

- The most effective control strategy is the prevention of seed production. Wild Chervil begins growing early in the season, so an effective management plan will focus on preventing the plant from flowering and setting seed, beginning in late April to early May.
- Mowing before flowering reduces seed production, but must be done weekly.
- Tilling brings the storage roots of the plant out of the ground where they will dry out. This must be done several times through-out the season and will not prevent seed production in the wet months. Tilling followed by seeding with desirable vegetation is more

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9200 122nd ST E
PUYALLUP, WA 98373
www.PierceCountyWeedBoard.org

effective than tilling alone, however research shows that tillage and reseeding of grass species provides less than 50% control of Wild Chervil.

✸ Combining an herbicidal treatment followed by tillage one week after application delivers about 80% control when a *glyphosate* product like Roundup Pro is used, and a 98% success rate with an *imazapyr* product like Habitat, Arsenal, or Ortho Ground Clear. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves, enough to be wet, but not dripping. Herbicide application should take place when plants are actively growing and before seeds are produced. Be aware, *glyphosate* and *imazapyr* are non-selective and will injure any plants that they come in contact with, including grass.