

NOT-WANTED!

WILD PARSNIP *Pastinaca sativa*

EARLY DETECTION & CONTROL WILL PREVENT INFESTATIONS!



Wild parsnip is an escaped garden plant from Europe; with a large, edible, white taproot.

Compound leaves grow as a rosette for at least one year. It is a monocarpic perennial (one that flowers once and then dies).

Minnesota plants usually bloom in late June to early July. The flower looks similar to native golden Alexanders, which normally blooms earlier, in May. Golden Alexander leaves grow in a palm-like pattern, have fewer leaflets and smaller, more even teeth on each leaflet.

Flowering stalks may reach four feet high. Leaves on these stalks, with 5 -15 sharp-toothed leaflets, grow feather-like, alternately along both sides of a central vein. Tiny, five-petaled, yellow flowers are arranged in flat-topped umbels, 2 – 6" wide. Seed heads resemble garden dill and are spread by mowing, tires and movement of soil which contains seeds. Seeds may remain viable in soil for up to four years. Parsnip is often seen invading disturbed areas, road and trail sides, edges, and open areas.

CAUTION! *Plant sap may cause serious skin burns!*

For more information contact:

Carole Gernes, Coordinator
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN 55117
carole.gernes@rwmwd.org
<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/cwma.htm>

