

CONTROLLING WILD PARSNIP IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD (Late Summer and Early Fall)

Equipment needed: gloves, long-sleeved shirt, several plastic bags, weed snippers

Notes:

- Wild parsnip is a biennial. The plants that will bloom next spring have been growing this summer.
- The seeds that will drop this fall and grow flowers two years from now are presently maturing on the parsnip plants. These seeds need to be eliminated.
- In late July, August and September wild parsnip plant seeds have matured. To keep them from dropping and starting new plants, these mature seeds should be cut and bagged. Note that the plant is no longer "juicy" and, with a care, there is very little chance of getting parsnip "juice" on your skin.

Procedure:

- Snip the mature flowering seed heads and let them fall into your plastic bag. Do not drop seeds on the ground.
- Dispose of the cut seed heads in an appropriate manner.

If the above steps are followed for a two year period, a very large percentage of future wild parsnip plants will be eliminated from your neighborhood. Doing this for one more year should result in a 90% reduction of this plant. Repeating this procedure for a year or two more should totally eliminate the plant.

Thank you.

Town of West Bend Weed Commissioner