

Cow Parsnip

Heracleum lanatum

Parsley Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Large, 6-12" across, leaves have serrated edges and are sometimes hairy
- ❑ Flower stalks can grow 2-8' tall
- ❑ Stems are somewhat hairy and grooved
- ❑ Flowers are white to a cream color and grow in 5-petal umbels at the top of the stalks- flower clusters are flat



Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant spreading by seeds
- It forms a low growing rosette and does not flower in the first year
- It has a large, fleshy taproot
- Cow parsnip is a native species
- Grows in disturbed areas, along roadways, and often found growing along waterways. It also grows in mountainous regions.



Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - No known biological control in our area

Cultural - Plant competitive grass or other crop

Mechanical - Cutting the plants will slow it down but it will regrow. Digging plants out is effective but labor intensive due to the large taproot

Chemical - Cow parsnip is not often thought of as a problem weed so there is not any information for control in the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#). Weed board personnel has treated a small area using dicamba plus 2,4-D with fairly good success if treated before it gets too big

Where found - Scattered areas throughout Stevens County mostly seen close to streams and creeks from the valley floor up into the mountains

