

Wild carrot

Daucus carota L. Parsley family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Small white, five petal flowers grow in flat-topped umbrella-like heads (umbels) 3 to 6 inches across
- ❑ Umbels close as fruits develop giving a bird cage appearance to the mature heads; they are surrounded at their base by a circle of finely divided bracts
- ❑ Fern-like leaves have a strong carrot odor, are alternate and have short hairs on margins & veins
- ❑ Seeds are 1/8 inch long, grayish-brown with one flat side and one rounded distinctly ribbed side- mature seeds have barbed prickles



Biology and ecology

- A biennial herb (usually) standing 1 to 4 feet tall and reproducing only by seed
- First year growth as a rosette with a tap root
- Second year stems are erect, hollow and stiff-haired, sometimes branched with flower heads
- Infests roadsides, pastures, meadows & dry areas
- Wild carrot is the same species as commercial carrot and harbors pests that can harm both

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

Biological - Since wild carrot and commercial carrot are the same species, classical biological control is not a viable option

Cultural - Good competing vegetation helps but it can invade healthy stands

Mechanical - Strongly discouraged by cultivation-annual cropping breaks biennial cycle-small infestations can be hand pulled or dug

Chemical - Several effective at label rates



Where found – Increasingly found in the Colville area, particularly along Buena Vista Rd and near Hwy 395 between Colville and the Greenwood Rd intersection. Occasionally elsewhere.