Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

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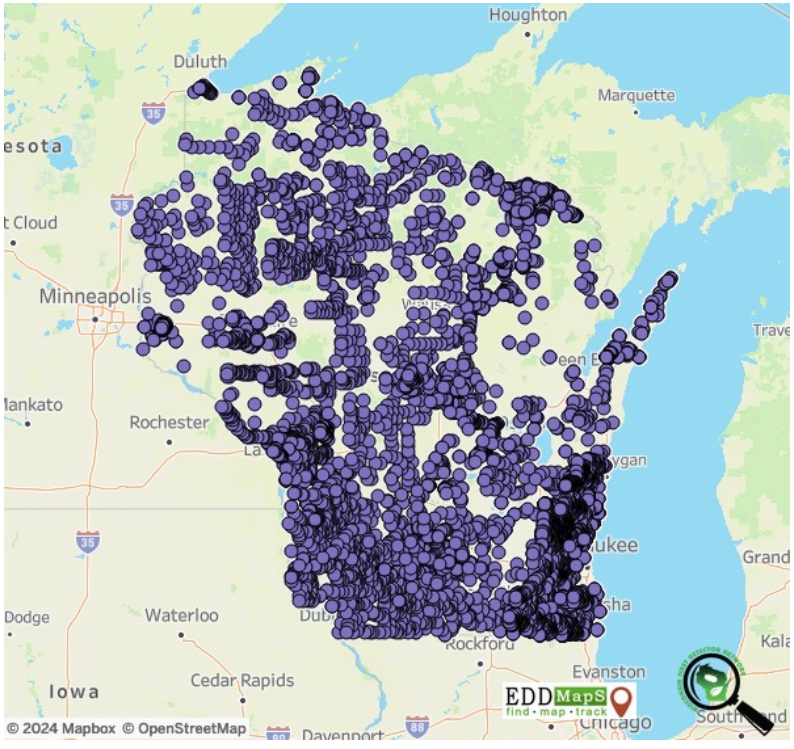
- Large biennial herb with pinnately compound leaves, yellow flowers
- Habitats it invades:
  - Grasslands
  - Roadsides
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Restricted
  - Regulated in: MN, OH



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Leaves alternate, pinnately compound

- Leaves up to 18" long, with 5-15 leaflets
- Leaflet margins toothed, sometimes lobed
- Stems smooth, ridged
- Irritating sap (causes skin burns)

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

Flower/fruit

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- Flowers are yellow, with five petals
- Flowers borne in compound umbels on branched stems; June-July
- Fruit is dry, smooth, splits into two parts

Wild parsnip look alikes

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Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is the only regulated member of the Carrot Family (Apiaceae) that has **yellow flowers**. Three other **native** members of the family have yellow flowers: golden Alexanders (*Zizia* spp.), Nuttall's prairie-parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*), and yellow-pimpernel (*Taenidia integerimma*). They are all shorter plants than wild parsnip.

Yellow-pimpernel (*Taenidia integerimma*) (**N**) has **leaves 3-parted**, with the parts **pinnately to bi-pinnately compound**, **compound umbels with long primary branches** and **few flowers**.

Nuttall's prairie-parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*) (**N**) is a **rare** species with **finely divided, twice-compound leaves**, and smaller, **rounded compound umbels**.

Wild parsnip look alikes

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Golden Alexanders (*Zizia* spp.) (**N**) have **leaves 3-parted**, with either **3 leaflets or the leaflets pinnately compound**, compound **umbels are somewhat rounded**, plants are 1-3' tall.

Carrot Family

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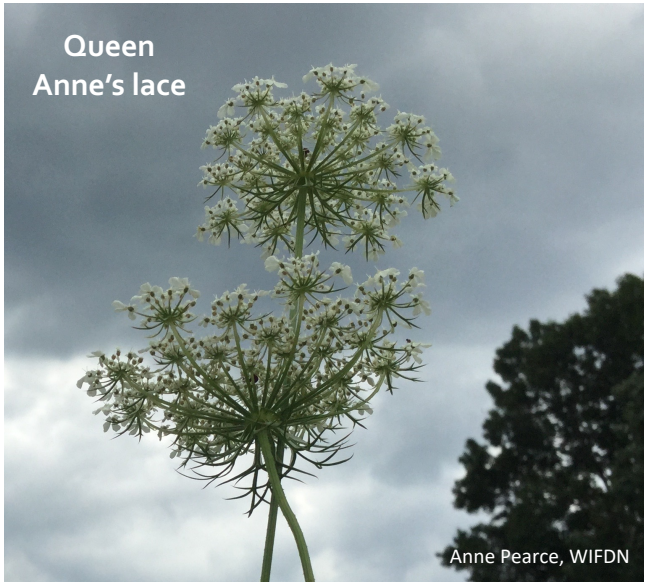
SUMMARY
Many members of the carrot family (*Apiaceae*) are invasive in Wisconsin. These **herbaceous biennials and perennials** have **alternate, compound leaves with sheaths at the base** of leaves. Many **small, 5-petaled flowers** are arranged in **compound umbels** (several small umbels combine to make larger umbel). Of the species that are invasive, **all have white flowers except wild parsnip**, which has yellow flowers. **Seeds form in pairs** and **stems are hollow** at maturity.



LOOK ALIKES
There are several members of the carrot family that are native and/or grown in gardens for food (roots, herbs, seeds) that **share the same characteristics listed above**. Within the carrot family, species are differentiated based on a combination of characteristics including overall size, hair presence on leaves and stems, bloom time, stem color, and seed shape and size.

Scientific Name	Common Name	NR 40
Aegopodium podagraria	Bishop's goutweed	R
Anthriscus sylvestris	Wild chervil	P/R
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock	P/R
Daucus carota	Queen Anne's lace	NR
Heracleum mantegazzianum	Giant hogweed	P
Pastinaca sativa	Wild parsnip	R
Pimpinella saxifrage	Burnet saxifrage	R
Torilis arvensis	Spreading hedgeparsley	P
Torilis japonica	Japanese hedgeparsley	P/R

Carrot Family

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Stem	Leaves	Flowers	Seeds
Aegopodium podagraria	Bishop's goutweed	Branched, ridged, hairless	Compound with up to 9 leaflets; toothed, pointed tips, often deeply cleft	2-4" umbels; 10 – 20 umbellets of up to 25 flowers each; no bracts at base of umbels or umbellets; May - June	Oval, 1/6" long, 2-parted, ribbed
Anthriscus sylvestris	Wild chervil	Branched, ribbed, short-hairy	2-3x compound, fernlike, triangular, up to 8" long	1-3" umbels"; 5-8 teardrop shaped bracts with hairy edges at base of umbellets; April - June	2-parted, narrowly egg-shaped; 3/8" long; glossy and smooth, 2-3 faint ribs
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock	Smooth, mottled purple spots, may have waxy coating	2-3x compound, triangular, up to 18" long, hairless, bad odor	3" umbels; triangular bracts at base of umbel and umbellets; June – Aug.	2-parted, egg-shaped, 1/8" long with wavy ribs
Daucus carota	Queen Anne's lace	Slightly ribbed; usually hairy	2x compound, 4" long, 2" wide, larger at base	2-5" umbels; often single dark purple flower in center of umbel; showy, branched bracts at base of umbels and umbellets; June – Sept.	Umbel folds into nest shape as seeds mature; seeds ribbed with stiff hairs
Heracleum mantegazzianum	Giant hogweed	2-4" diameter, prominent purple spots; stiff, scattered hairs	Pinnately compound, 1-5' wide, 3 deeply lobed, pointed leaflets; toothed edges	Huge umbels 2'+ across with 50-150 umbellets; linear bracts at base of umbellets; May – July	2-parted flattened oval, 3/8" long

Carrot Family

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Stem	Leaves	Flowers	Seeds
Pastinaca sativa	Wild parsnip	Hairless, strongly grooved	Up to 18" long, 6" wide, pinnately compound with 5-15 coarsely toothed leaflets (fewer on stem leaves)	YELLOW flowers, umbels 3-8"; no bracts; June - July	Flattened, winged oval, ¼" long
Pimpinella saxifrage	Burnet saxifrage	Faintly ribbed, covered in very short hairs	Pinnately compound; lowest leaves up to 12" long, with oval, coarsely toothed leaflets; leaves smaller up stem	Umbels 2-3"; usually no bracts, sometimes one bract at base of umbel or umbellet; June – Sept.	Flattened, 2-parted oval pod with faint ribs, <1/8"
Torilis arvensis	Spreading hedgeparsley	Ridged, branched stems	Alternate, compound, fern-like, slightly hairy, 2-5" long	Small, ½ - 2" loose umbels; outer petals lobed; no bracts; July – Aug.	Oval, 1/8" long, covered in hooked hairs
Torilis japonica	Japanese hedgeparsley	Ridged, covered in stiff, flattened hairs	Alternate, compound, fern-like, slightly hairy, 2-5" long	Small, 1 ½ - 2" open umbels; 5 notched petals of unequal size; 2 or more narrow bracts at base of umbel; up to 8 bracts at base of umbellet; June – Aug.	Oval, 1/8" long, covered in hooked hairs