# Control Options for Wild Chervil

**General Information**

Wild chervil, a plant native to Europe, has become naturalized in much of northeastern North America. It is related to poison hemlock and wild carrot, two other introduced weeds that are quite similar in appearance. This weed invades pastures, roadsides, fencerows and waste areas, forming dense stands. It may be introduced into areas as part of British wildflower seed mixes.

**Manual/Mechanical Techniques**

Small stands of wild chervil can be controlled through hand removal. Plants should be dug, taking care to remove the entire long taproot. Disturbance of the soil during manual control may cause the germination of any chervil seeds in the soil, so the area should be monitored to control any new seedlings. Mowing or pulling the tops is ineffective, as the plant will regenerate from the crown. Tillage can provide control if conducted multiple times over at least 2 years. After tillage has stopped, the area should be seeded with a desirable cover grass and checked often for new seedlings.

**Chemical Recommendations**

Wild Chervil can be controlled using specific herbicides. Effectiveness of control is increased when combined with tilling of the plot a week after herbicide application. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. If spraying is the chosen option, spray late in the evening to reduce the direct impact on pollinating insects. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

***Glyphosate*** (KillZall™, others) can be applied to actively growing plants in the rosette stage (April and May), before they begin to bolt (flowering stems elongate). An herbicide containing a 40% or higher concentration of glyphosate should be used. Ready-to-Use or premixed solutions are not concentrated enough to be effective. Glyphosate will kill grass and other vegetation so care should be taken if used around desired vegetation. The loss of surrounding plants also may allow germination of any chervil seeds in the soil.

***Imazapyr*** (marketed as Habitat™, Arsenal™) can be applied to actively growing plants in the rosette to bud stage. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength. A surfactant may be added to increase efficiency.

*NEVER apply RoundUp® or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use.* Ingredients in non-aquatic products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Aquatic formulations of herbicides are generally only available to licensed pesticide applicators in Washington State. If the target plants are immediately adjacent to or are in standing water, a state permit may be required in order to treat those plants with an aquatically approved herbicide.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

*The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product.* Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook