MANAGEMENT OF

INVASIVE PLANTS IN WISCONSIN

A3924-08

Hedge-parsleys *(Torilis spp.)*

Brendon Panke and Mark Renz

Invasive plants can thrive and aggressively spread beyond their natural range, disrupting ecosystems. The *Management of Invasive Plants in Wisconsin* series explains how to identify invasive plants and provides common management options. Management methods recommend specific timings for treatment, as well as expected effectiveness. For more information, go to: fyi.uwex.edu/weedsci/category/invasive-plants-of-wisconsin.

Hedge-parsley is an herbaceous biennial in Wisconsin (acts as an annual elsewhere) that establishes as rosettes with parsley-like leaves. Plants flower in the second year. Flowering stems are spreading, grooved, notably jointed, and covered in hair. Mature plants are typically 2–4′ tall.

Legal classification in Wisconsin:
Japanese hedge-parsley *(Torilis japonica)*: Prohibited/restricted
Spreading hedge-parsley *(Torilis arvensis)*: Prohibited

Leaves: Stem leaves are pinnately compound, alternate, fern-like, triangular, slightly hairy, and 2–5″ long. Leaflets are pinnately divided and clasp the stem. Rosette leaves are similar to stem leaves.

Flowers: Middle to late summer. White flowers found in small, loose, flat-topped umbels. Japanese hedge-parsley has two or more small bracts at the base of each umbel. Spreading hedge-parsley lacks bracts at the base of each umbel.

Fruits and seeds: Each flower produces a pair of bristle-covered fruit that can attach to fur or clothing. Fruit are initially rosy or white-green, but become brown as they mature.

Roots: Taproot

Similar species: Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) has larger, flatter, and denser umbels. Caraway (*Carum carvi*) is shorter and has dark, oblong seeds and leaves that are more finely divided than the hedge-parsleys. Sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza*) has leaves that are not as fern-like. Wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) flowers in spring. The bristle-covered seed of hedge-parsleys is a key characteristic to distinguish these two hedge-parsleys from other similar species.

Ecological threat:
- Invades forest edges, fields, fencerows, roadsides, and disturbed areas. Although often found in areas of partial to full shade, it can tolerate a wide range of light intensity.
- Bristle-covered seeds are easily dispersed by animals.

Non-chemical control

Removal

Effectiveness in season: 90–100%
Season after treatment: 50–70%

Pulling and cutting the stem are effective individual plant control techniques. Pull if soil conditions allow for the removal of the taproot. Alternately, cut the stems when flowering. If brown fruit are present, bag material and dispose of it in a landfill to avoid potential for seed spread.

Mowing

Effectiveness in season: 90–100%
Season after treatment: 50–70%

Mowing can be effective if timed after bolting, but before brown fruit are present. Plants may resprout and still flower, but rarely produce viable seed. Monitor populations and repeat mowing if concerned about seed production. Care must be taken not to mow when brown fruit are present since this will spread the seed. While mowing has been reported as an effective means of suppression, there is no data on how many years of mowing are required to control a population.

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Prescribed burning

Effectiveness in season: 50–70%
Season after treatment: < 50%

Spring burns can kill germinating seedlings and suppress above-ground growth of established plants, depending on fire intensity. After the fire, established plants will resprout and reinvade areas; this management method is not recommended unless integrated with other techniques. Fire may benefit other species well-adapted to this management (e.g., prairie grasses), resulting in improved competition with the hedge-parsleys. A handheld propane torch can be effective for treating seedlings.

Chemical control

Foliar

Apply directly to individual plants or broadcast across an infested area. Broadcasted foliar applications are typically the most cost-effective treatment in dense infestations. Use lower rates on smaller plants and less dense populations and higher rates on larger plants and denser populations.

glyphosate*

Effectiveness in season: 70–90%
Season after treatment: < 50%

Common name: Roundup

Rate:
broadcast: 1.5–3.0 lb a.e./A
spot: For a 3 lb a.e./gal product: 1.0–2.0% (0.03–0.06 lb a.e./gal)

Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall or spring or to bolting plants.

Caution: Use product labeled for aquatic use if potential exists for solution to contact surface waters. Applications can result in bare ground since glyphosate is not selective. Overspray or drift to desirable plants should be avoided since even minute quantities of the spray may cause severe injury to plants.

metsulfuron*

Effectiveness in season: 90–100%
Season after treatment: 70–90%

Common name: Escort

Rate:
broadcast: 0.3–1 oz/A (0.2–0.6 oz a.i./A)
spot: 0.04 oz/gal (0.02 oz a.i./gal)

Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall or spring or to bolting plants.

Caution: Do not apply directly to water or to areas where surface water is present. Remains in the soil for months, depending on application rate. Overspray or drift to desirable plants should be avoided since even minute quantities of the spray may cause severe injury to plants.

triclopyr*

Effectiveness in season: 70–90%
Season after treatment: 50–70%

Common name: Garlon

Rate:
broadcast: 32–64 fl oz/A (1.0–2.0 lb a.e./A)
spot: 1–2% (0.04–0.08 lb a.e./gal)

Timing: Apply to rosettes in fall or spring or to bolting plants.

Caution: Use product labeled for aquatic use if potential exists for solution to contact surface waters. Use of this chemical in areas where soils are permeable, particularly where the water table is shallow, may result in groundwater contamination. Overspray or drift to desirable plants should be avoided since even minute quantities of the spray may cause severe injury to plants.

Herbicide information is based on label rates and reports by researchers and land managers. Products known to provide effective control or in common use are included. Those that do not provide sufficient control or lack information for effectiveness on target species have been omitted.

References to pesticide products in this publication are for your convenience and not an endorsement of one product instead of a similar product. You are responsible for using pesticides in accordance with the label directions. *Read the label before any application.*

***Active ingredient (a.i.)**

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