

## Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

### DESCRIPTION:

Queen Anne's Lace (QAL) is a biennial species originally from western Europe. Another common name for Queen Anne's Lace is wild carrot (carrots we eat are a cultivated variety). The Queen Anne's lace name comes from the resemblance of the flower to lace; the red flower in the center represents a blood droplet where Queen Anne pricked herself with a needle. The function of the tiny red flower is to attract insects. It is very common in a variety of sunny, disturbed areas and ubiquitous along roadsides and in old fields. Although it is admittedly an attractive "wildflower", this species aggressively invades prairies and other natural communities and is difficult to eradicate.

**-2**  
**Persistent**  
**Weed**

### IDENTIFICATION:

Queen Anne's Lace is a plant with a delicate appearance ranging from 3-5' in height when flowering. The leaves, though large, are finely pinnately divided and resemble those of the parsley. When damaged the foliage smells distinctively like fresh carrots. The flat-topped to umbrella-shaped cluster of flowers contains numerous white flowers, often (but not always) with a single red flower in the center. Once the flowers are pollinated, the umbel curls up into a ball shape and the seeds mature inside the ball.

QAL resembles several other species in the Umbel family with white flowers, such as the weeds Japanese hedge parsley and poison hemlock. Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is extremely toxic; even a tiny fragment of the root of this species can be deadly if ingested, so don't sample a wild carrot unless you are certain of its identity. A few native species also look like QAL; Cowbane (*Oxyopolis rigidior*), water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) and water parsnip (*Sium suave*), which all have white umbel shaped flowers. However, these species live in wet areas and their foliage is not so finely divided as that of QAL.



### CONTROL METHODS:

Since these plants only live for two years, the primary goal of management should be to prevent seed production. Once flowering has begun, seeds can develop even if you kill the plant. So cut or pulled stalks must be removed from the site and disposed of properly if they have begun to flower.

**Organic:** Mowing treatments need to be well timed for when the plants first begin to bloom, and repeated when the plants resprout and begin to flower again. This is the easiest method for controlling large populations. Hand pulling is effective during moist soil conditions, and this is the preferred method for high-quality natural areas and small populations. Cutting the root about 2" below the surface with a sharp shovel or "Parsnip Predator" is also effective if soil conditions do not allow for effective pulling. Regular applications of prescribed fire will also help to control this species.

**Chemical:** Due to the fine structure of the leaves, herbicide application often results in unacceptable amounts of drift and damage to nearby plants. Herbicides are most effective on first-year rosettes, early in the spring, or shortly after a burn when they are still small and many native plants are still dormant. A spot application of glyphosate (Round-Up®, etc.) is effective, or to reduce collateral damage choose triclopyr (Garlon® 3A, etc.) which is more selective and will not kill grasses.

Always read herbicide labels carefully before use and always apply according to the instruction on the product label.

### NATIVE ALTERNATIVES:

Since this is a full-sun weed we recommend a diverse selection of prairie species to replace and compete against Queen Anne's Lace in order to develop a more stable and productive plant community for the site. Contact us for specific recommendations.

