

Japanese Hedge Parsley (*Torilis japonica*)

DESCRIPTION:

Japanese hedge parsley (JHP) is an annual/biennial forb originating from Eurasia. In Wisconsin this plant is commonly found on disturbed sites, thicket, roadsides and railroads and threatens to invade woodlands and savannas. When this species becomes established in a area it quickly spreads and limits plant diversity. This plant is primarily distributed by seed, which spreads widely by attaching onto fabric and fur.

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Exotic
Invasive

IDENTIFICATION:

JHP reaches a height between 12 and 20 in. The leaves are sparse with 3 finely-divided serrated leaflets about 2 to 5 in. long, very similar in appearance to wild carrot, sweet cicely or cultivated parsley. The center leaflet is larger with a prominent midrib. The white flowers are a flat-topped cluster with small petals at the top of the plant when in bloom in July and August. The small fruit has a flattened oval shape and is covered in velcro-like hairs which attach to clothing and fur. It is important to differentiate JHP from sweet cicely, which is a native woodland wildflower. Crushed leaves of sweet cicely has the distinctive smell of licorice, JHP does not.



CONTROL METHODS:

Organic: Hand pulling is effective for small populations, since JHP pulls up easily in moist soil. Care should be taken to minimize soil disturbance. If the plants are flowering or developing seeds they should be bagged and disposed of in the trash to prevent seed dispersal. For populations that are too large for hand pulling, using a mower or weed whip to obliterate the plants late in their flowering period will reduce seed production. This treatment must be carefully timed well into the bloom period but before seeds start to develop in order to prevent re-flowering. Prescribed burns and the clearing of invasive brush and aggressive trees will invigorate our native plants which allows them to better compete with the JHP.

Chemical: Since the plants remain green year-round, dormant season herbicide treatment is crucial for controlling large populations of JHP. A 2% active ingredient (a.i.) solution of glyphosate (Round-Up®, etc.) can be sprayed on the first year rosettes in late fall after most native species have gone dormant or in early spring before native species have become active again. The temperature must be above 45° F, and there should not be rain in the forecast for at least 12 hours after treatment. Triclopyr (Weed-B-Gon®, etc.) at 2% a.i. solution can be used where there is a risk of injuring native sedges or grasses. Herbicide as plants begin to bolt in early summer may be necessary to control large populations of JHP, but care must be taken not to harm other plants. Always read herbicide labels carefully before use.

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



NATIVE ALTERNATIVES:

Plant or seed native plants into the bare areas left after JHP removal to prevent erosion and the establishment of weeds and to provide resources for wildlife. A few possibilities for shade include spring blooming species such as wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginiana*), great white trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) and Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*); species which add summer color such as tall bellflower (*Campanula americana*) and red baneberry (*Actea rubra*); and fall blooming species such as zig-zag goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*), elm-leaved goldenrod (*S. ulmifolia*) and various woodland asters (*Aster* spp.)