

# Wild Parsnip

*Pastinaca sativa*

**Description:** Parsnip will grow it's first year as 6 inch high rosettes, then following years will grow up to 4 feet on thick grooved stems. Leaves are alternate and made of 5 to 15 sharply toothed leaflets. Flat-topped yellow flower clusters are 2-6 inches wide and bloom from June to late summer. Seeds are flat, round, and slightly ribbed, take 3 weeks to mature, and are viable in the soil for 4 years.

**Ecological Threat:** Wild parsnip readily moves into disturbed areas. Once established it can spread rapidly. It can grow in a variety of conditions but is shade-intolerant. **Avoid contact with the toxic sap of the plant. The juice in contact with skin and exposed to sunlight will cause a rash and blistering of the skin.**

**Control Methods:**

**Mechanical-** Hand-pulling getting most of the long taproot (wear gloves and long sleeves and pants) or mow or cut before seeds set.

**Chemical-** spot application with glyphosate after a burn (parsnip is one of the first plants to green up after a fire).

