

Wild Parsnip Recommendation: Clipping

If wild parsnip plants with seeds are dug out by hand, then the plants must be placed in a black garbage bag and let it sit in the sun for at least a week. Dispose of the bags with household garbage.

If wild parsnip plants go to seed, **do not mow**. Alternatively, large patches of wild parsnip that cannot be dug up by hand can be clipped. Using a pair of garden clippers, clip the stem between two nodes part way down the plant. Clip all secondary stems as well to prevent flowering and seeding. If the stem is clipped too low to the ground, then the plant will re-sprout and re-flower. Clipped plants need to be monitored and re-clipped as necessary. Seed heads can also be placed in a black garbage bag and let sit in the sun for at least a week. Dispose of the bags with household garbage.

CAUTION

When controlling wild parsnip, ALWAYS wear protective clothing, including waterproof gloves, long sleeve shirts, long pants, rubber boots, and eye protection. Ideally, wear disposable “spray suit” coveralls over normal clothing (spray suits are commercial grade waterproof coveralls). Tape coveralls at the wrist to minimize potential skin exposure to the sap. Remove protective clothing carefully to minimize sap exposure and wash clothing thoroughly.

More information about the health effects of wild parsnip is available at <https://healthunit.org/health-information/home-health-safety/dangerous-weeds/>