

Wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace)

Daucus carota L.

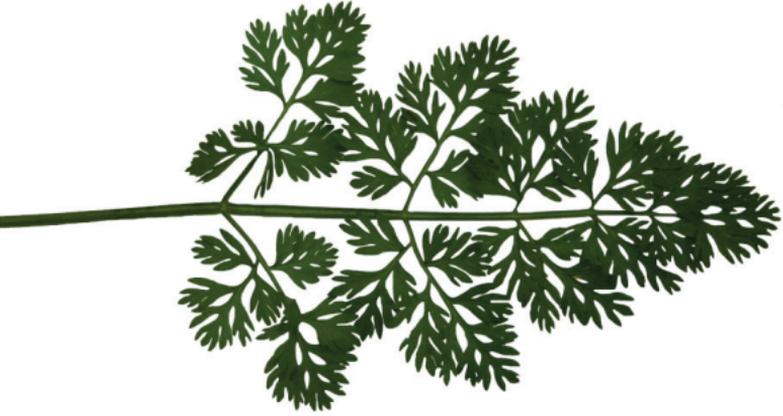
Life cycle: Erect, fernlike biennial.

Leaves: First-year leaves originate from a basal rosette followed by an erect flowering stem with few leaves in the second year. Cotyledons are long, very narrow and thin. Leaves are doubly compound, fernlike and attached by long stalks inflated at the base. Damaged leaves will emit a carrotlike odor.

Stems: Erect, hollow, grooved, rough-hairy stems elongate during the second year, up to 5 feet tall with numerous branches.

Flowers and fruit: Numerous white flowers, often with a central purple flower, form terminal, 2- to 6-inch-wide, flat-topped clusters. Fruit have two egg-shaped sections; each section is yellow to grayish brown, flattened on one side and ridged with barbed spines.

Reproduction: Seeds.



Fernlike leaf of wild carrot.

All photos this page: Steven A. Gower



Wild carrot seedling.



Wild carrot flower cluster.

Similar weeds

Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.).

Differs by having a rhizomatous perennial nature, more finely dissected leaves that lack a carrotlike odor, and a shorter, bushier appearance at maturity.

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum* L.).

Differs by having hairless, waxy, purple-spotted stems and dark, glossy green leaves that have a musty odor.