

A Friendly Notice about Invasive Plants

It appears your property may contain
Wild Parsnip



Invasive plants are aggressive non-native species that reproduce rapidly, outcompete native species, and can negatively impact agriculture, industry, recreation, forestry, human health, and the environment. Invasive plants may be introduced unintentionally, as hitchhikers on clothing, gear, or equipment, or unknowingly, often for ornamental purposes.

This notice is part of the early detection, response, and monitoring plan for the **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program** whose mission is to protect the region from the negative impacts of invasive species.

For more information contact the
Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
518-576-2082, P.O. Box 65, Keene Valley, NY 12943
www.adkinvasives.com

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

Origin: Eurasia

THE PROBLEM: Wild parsnip poses a threat to human health, as some people are sensitive to the plant. A very painful rash can develop that can persist for several months or longer if skin contacts the leaves or plant sap in the presence of sunlight. Wild Parsnip spreads along roadsides and open settings.

HOW TO IDENTIFY: Wild parsnip is a large plant that grows 2-5 feet tall. It has alternate, compound, branched leaves that have serrated edges. In May and June, it produces small, 5 petaled, yellow flowers that are arranged in a flat topped, broad umbel 2-6 inches across. It has a long, cone-shaped, fleshy, thick taproot.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Be sure to wear gloves, long sleeves, and long pants and avoid skin contact with the juices of the plant. Cutting the entire root below ground level with a sharp shovel or spade is very effective. A power brush cutter or mower can also be used. Controls should only be done before seeds develop. Put all plant pieces in plastic bags and take them to a sanitary landfill. Monitor the site and pull out any new plants, and repeat each year until the seed bank is depleted.

Observer name: _____

Phone #: _____

Date species was observed: _____

Comments: _____

Thank you for your help in the fight against
invasive species!