

Wild carrot

Daucus carota L.

Family: Apiaceae (Parsley family)

Life cycle: Biennial

Habitat: Pastures, roadsides

General description: Forms basal rosette during first year and then erect flower stalk up to 3 ft tall in second year. Inflorescence is a flat umbel with numerous white, lace-like flowers. Mature umbels roll up into a 'bird's nest'.

Key ID traits: Leaves are pinnately dissected with fine, lacy lobes; petioles are longer than the blade. Stems are hollow, hairy and ribbed. Often a single purple flower is found in center of umbel.

Similar species: Poison hemlock is found in similar habitats, but the lobes of leaves are not as finely divided as wild carrot. Poison hemlock has purple spots on the stem and reaches heights of 5-6 ft.

Miscellaneous: Wild carrot is the same species as the cultivated variety. It was introduced to North America by the first European settlers. Frequently called Queen-Anne's lace.



Hairy stem of wild carrot



Umbel with center black flower.