



WILD PARSNIP

PASTINACA SATIVA

Wild parsnip is a biennial plant that begins as a small rosette and sends up large yellow flowers and goes to seed the second year. It was brought over from Europe and Asia to be planted in gardens so the root could be eaten. The plant escaped the gardens and has become an invasive weed, growing wherever it can and spreading quickly once established.

Wild Parsnip contains toxic sap that makes skin more sensitive to sunlight causing painful blisters to appear. Cover your skin to avoid contact with the sap.

Control is best achieved by cutting the root an inch below the ground, taking care not to get the sap on your skin. If the plant has already gone to seed, remove the plants from the area and burn them. Spraying the small plants before they go to seed with herbicide can also be effective.