WHY THE CONCERN?

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) displaces native plants or roadsides and meadows and reduces the biodiversity.

Features of Wild Parsnip

Flowers— Looks like a large, yellow Queen Anne’s lace in June and July. Flowers appear after the second year.

Stem— thick, hairy, and hollow stem supports head; thick carrot-like taproot. The sap irritates skin when exposed to sunlight.

Height— 2-5 feet tall at maturity

Leaves— leaflets are irregularly toothed (somewhat like parsley) with larger leaves at the base.

SKIN CONTACT WARNING

Contact with liquid from this plant and exposure to sunlight can cause severe blistering or a rash and skin discoloration. Avoid touching this plant without gloves and protective clothing. If you are exposed to the sap, immediately wash in soap and water and seek shelter from the sun.

Photos by Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org; Eike Heinze