



NEWS OF THE DAY

JULY 20, 2022 – 3:30 P.m.

Notice: Wild parsnip – toxic plant

What you should know:

- Wild parsnip is a poisonous plant that is similar to hogweed.
- Its characteristics:
 - It can reach 2 metres in height
 - Leaves with serrated edges similar to those of celery
 - Yellowish-green flowers forming umbrella-shaped clusters 10 to 20 cm in diameter, from May to late fall
 - Smooth green stem, 2.5 cm thick, slightly hairy
- This plant prefers sunny environments and can be found on vacant lots and in meadows and fields. It is also abundant on embankments along roadsides, bike paths, and near railroad rights-of-way.
- If you come in contact with the sap of the wild parsnip, avoid exposure to the sun to avoid bodily harm. Wash the affected area thoroughly with cold water and soap, then rinse with plenty of water. In case of eye contact, rinse with plenty of water for at least 10 minutes.
- Initial contact with the plant is painless; symptoms appear only after a few hours.
- The best time to manually remove wild parsnip is in the spring. This involves pulling out as much of the taproot as possible with a round shovel, spade or long-handled knife. Regular follow-up will be required to remove any regrowth. Protect all parts of your body; wear goggles to protect your eyes; wear coveralls, gloves and rubber boots.



Where to inquire:

- [Municipality of Pontiac's Website](#)
- [Municipality of Pontiac's Facebook account](#)
- [L'herbier du Québec : panais sauvage](#)
- [Outil de détection des espèces exotiques envahissantes du ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques](#)