

Japanese Hedge Parsley Treatment Options

Take-Home-Messages:

Japanese hedge parsley is a relatively recently introduced invasive species in Wisconsin. It has been categorized as a target invasive species to monitor and eradicate before it becomes a large problem. Imagine if we could have curbed the infestation of garlic mustard before it escalated to its current extent. . .

Learn to identify and control this species. It is often found in disturbed areas such as urban areas, railroad rights-of-way, roadsides, trails, or forest edges, and then proliferates into the adjacent grasslands, savannas, and forests.

Japanese hedge parsley is similar to the all-too-familiar invasive species called garlic mustard in that it has two distinct growing stages—a first year, seedling/ basal rosette and a second-year seed producing plant. Control efforts must consider of the plant's maturity and life cycle.

Hand-pulling Japanese hedge parsley is the preferred method as long as time permits. Mowing is also a useful tool for control of second-year plants that grow in disturbed sites such as roadways. Chemical has not proven to be a consistent means of eliminating second-year plants. These control options are discussed in detail below.

Japanese hedge parsley is a vigorous plant. If control efforts are being carried out when Japanese hedge parsley is nearing maturity (**when the plant in or beyond the flowering stage**), it will retain the ability to produce seeds and therefore the only control option is to hand-pull, bag, and dispose of the plants properly.

Japanese hedge parsley has stick-tight seeds that will cling to your clothes. If plants have progressed to the point where the seeds are fully mature, it is recommended that you do not enter the infested area to avoid tracking seed. It is essential that you revisit the infested area the following spring.

Monitoring: Visually monitor Japanese hedge parsley locations regularly to ensure control efforts have been effective at eliminating seed producing plants.

Look-a-likes: JH-P can be confused with Queen Anne's lace or wild carrot. JH-P basal rosettes can be mistaken for sweet cicely. The following website provides a photo catalogue of look-a-like plants that are easily confused with JH-P:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/japanparsley.htm>



Photo of Japanese hedge parsley stick-tight seeds. These stick-tight seeds disperse vigorously because they cling to clothing and animal fur.



Photo of Japanese hedge parsley, a relatively newly introduced invasive species with stick-tight seeds that spread readily.



A patch of first-year Japanese hedge-parsley basal rosettes that will over-winter and become seed producing plants the following summer.



Large Japanese hedge parsley population.
 ©2004/Gary Fowless

Can I mow/ cut Japanese hedge parsley?

Mow/ cut second-year Japanese hedge parsley plants to a level of a few inches above the soil surface:

- if the plants are growing in a homogeneous patch (void of spring ephemerals or other native species).
- if the infestation of is too overwhelming to hand-pull.
- If the plants are growing in disturbed areas such as roadsides, ditches, railroad rights-of-way, etc.

Depending on the terrain, use a lawn mower, tractor, or weed eater to mow the infestations.

Timing: It is essential to mow the plant just as the white flowers begin to develop. Because of the “whispy” structure of the plants, they are rather difficult to spot until they develop white flowers

Ecological Considerations:

- Japanese hedge parsley is gaining a foot hold in the ecosystem by beginning its invasion in disturbed sites such as roadways. As a result, the Aldo Leopold Foundation has had success in coordinating the county’s roadside mowing efforts to coincide with the ideal time for mowing Japanese hedge parsley. Keep in mind that mowing is a “broadcast tool” and therefore, is not recommended as a tool for dealing with a specific problem (e.g. Japanese hedge parsley). However, in some situations, mowing is a very valuable tool.
- Mowing will likely have a negative effect on native species that do not tolerate mowing—especially mowing on a yearly basis. Assess the situation and your resources to determine whether hand-pulling or mowing is the proper tool.

Monitoring: Visually monitor the site regularly to ensure treatment has been effective at eliminating seed producing plants.

Can I hand-pull Japanese hedge parsley?

Hand-pulling is a very effective means of dealing with Japanese hedge parsley as long as the root is pulled out. The plant is capable of resprouting if the stem breaks off and the root remains in the ground.

When to hand-pull:

- Pull second-year plants that are mature.
- When time permits (hand-pulling is the preferred method as long as time permits).
- Where high quality spring ephemerals are present.

Mature second-year plants **must** be hand-pulled and bagged (see below).

Monitoring: Visually monitor the site regularly to ensure treatment has been effective at eliminating seed producing plants. Japanese hedge parsley plants develop their flowers over a rather long time span (a period of weeks) therefore it is essential that you monitor the area regularly to ensure you have removed all second-year plants.

Do I have to put pulled Japanese hedge parsley plants in bags or can I leave them in the field?

The maturity of the Japanese hedge parsley plants dictates whether the pulled plants can be left in the field or whether the plants must be bagged.

- **Bag all plants:** If plants are *in or beyond the flowering stage*. Plants and seeds can still ripen to maturity after plants are uprooted.
- **Scatter pulled plants in field:** If plants are pulled before flower budding begins, they may be scattered within the already infested area to dry out. Do not put pulled plants in piles where roots may stay moist allowing development of mature seed to proceed.

Can I chemically treat Japanese hedge parsley?

The Aldo Leopold Foundation has not had consistent results with chemical treatment of Japanese hedge parsley.

A 1.5% solution of the active ingredient glyphosate appears to be effective on seedlings in the spring or fall. However, the Aldo Leopold Foundation has not had success with using glyphosate to control second-year plants. We are closely monitoring some test plots to determine efficacy of chemical control for both seedlings and second-year plants.

Take Home Treatment Message: Hand-pull or mow second-year plants after they have developed white flowers (this makes them easier to see in the field). Learn to identify Japanese hedge parsley so you can be a vigilant scout.