

Wild Parsnip Recommendation: Tarping

Tarping is recommended to be used following large infestation control measures, like mowing, to smother new growth. Tarping is **optional** but may reduce the frequency of mowing required in the next growing season. Materials for tarping **will not** be provided. As a result, using tarping as a control method is up to the **discretion and expense** of the person responsible for the Wild Parsnip control.

DIRECTIONS: Cover the infested area with a dark coloured tarp or heavy material. Weed barriers used by landscapers or blue poly tarps are good options. Take care to weigh down the tarp material so it doesn't blow away, but be sure it is still receiving adequate sun exposure. Tent pegs work well as long as the ground isn't too rocky. Leave the plastic in place for at least one full growing season to ensure the roots are smothered. This method is effective in preventing sunlight from reaching the plants and heating up the soil to kill the roots.

After the tarping is complete, rehabilitate the site by planting native species that will out-compete the Wild Parsnip seedlings and prevent re-infestation. Rehabilitation is especially important following a season of tarping since the soil will be exposed and susceptible to re-infestation.

CAUTION

If there is a potential to be exposed to the toxic sap wear protective clothing, including waterproof gloves, long sleeve shirts and pants, rubber boots, and eye protection. Ideally, wear disposable "spray suit" coveralls over normal clothing (spray suits are commercial grade waterproof coveralls). Tape coveralls at the wrist to minimize potential skin exposure to the sap. Remove protective clothing carefully to minimize sap exposure and wash clothing thoroughly.

More information about the health effects of Wild Parsnip is available at <http://www.healthunit.org/hazards/dangerousweeds.html>.