

Wild Parsnip in Tay Valley Township

Township Roads

Please be advised that Tay Valley Township will not be conducting a roadside spraying program to control the spread of Wild Parsnip in 2017 along Township roads and properties.

Tay Valley will continue our roadside mowing program, as in past years, along Township roads. Tay Valley monitored the Wild Parsnip situation in 2016 and made notes of areas of infestation so that we can make informed decisions on this issue in future years.

County Roads

Lanark County as well as some local municipalities within Lanark County have decided to carry out a roadside spraying program beginning in late May through to the end of June, 2017. If you live, or own property, adjacent to a County Road then the road allowance may be sprayed under the County program unless you advise the County of Lanark you do not wish it to be sprayed and elect to participate in one of the no spray options. Please contact the County of Lanark at 613-267-4200 or go online at <http://www.lanarkcounty.ca/Page1875.aspx> for a map of roads to be sprayed and for further information on the no spray options.

About Wild Parsnip

Wild Parsnip is an invasive plant that is increasingly common within Lanark County and was added to Ontario's list of Noxious Weeds in January, 2015. The plant is most commonly found in areas such as road shoulders, roadside ditches, rail corridors, trails and uncultivated lands.

Wild Parsnip may pose a health risk to humans as the plant sap may cause skin and eye irritation and make the skin prone to severe burning and blistering when exposed to the sun. The blisters typically occur one to two days after contact with the plant. In some cases, this can result in long term scarring of the skin.

The best way to avoid contact with Wild Parsnip is to become familiar with what the plant looks like and the proper handling techniques when dealing with the plant.

Information to identify and deal with Wild Parsnip is available on Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program website www.invadingspecies.com

Additional information can also be obtained from the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit at <http://www.healthunit.org/hazards/dangerousweeds.html>.