



Invasive Species of the Month for July 2019

Japanese Hedge Parsley (*Torilis japonica*)

Origin: Asia

Interesting Fact: Japanese Hedge Parsley has a close relative, Spreading Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*), that should also be removed when spotted. Japanese Hedge Parsley can be distinguished by the presence of 2-8 bracts at the base of an individual umbellet. Spreading Hedge Parsley has no bracts or a single bract.

Botanical Terminology:

Umbel – a type of flowering structure with multiple short stalks originating from a single point

Umbellet – a single umbel structure in a compound umbel

Description: Japanese Hedge Parsley is an annual to biennial plant in the Carrot Family. It has alternate, compound leaves and compound umbels with white flowers that turn into hooked, bur-like fruit when ripe.

Defining characteristics:

- Alternate, compound leaves with 3 to 5 leaflets per leaf
- Compound umbels with five petaled white flowers
- Fruit has recurved bristles that attach to clothing or hair
- Stems are erect with ridges and can have multiple branches (giving it a bushy appearance)



Left Images: Japanese Hedge Parsley stem and branches (top) and small tap root (bottom)

Center Image: Japanese Hedge Parsley leaves

Right Images: Japanese Hedge Parsley compound umbels of flowers (top) and single umbellet of fruit (bottom)



Habitat: Disturbed areas, right-of-ways, fallow fields, forest edges, hedgerows, yards, prairies



Above Image: Mature Japanese Hedge Parsley with fruit invading a pollinator planting at Fox Ridge Nature Park.

Ecological threat: Japanese Hedge Parsley produces close to a hundred bur-like fruits, each containing two seeds, in one compound umbel, and a single plant can have over 50 compound umbels. The fruits are easily carried by humans, mammals or birds that come in contact with the plant, allowing for widespread dispersal. Japanese Hedge Parsley is also adapted to multiple environmental conditions and can invade a wide range of habitats.

Control Methods:

- Manual: Pulling up young individuals before they produce seeds is effective on scattered patches. Japanese Hedge Parsley has a very shallow taproot and is easy to pull.
- Chemical: A foliar application of 0.5% glyphosate* plus a nonionic surfactant is very effective on large patches of young individuals and has minimal effects on nontarget perennial plants.

*Always follow herbicide label instructions.

References

Panke, Brendon and Mark Renz. "Hedge-parsleys (*Torilis spp.*).” Management of Invasive Plants in Wisconsin, 1/10/2012, <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A3924-08.pdf>. Accessed 7/16/19.

"*Torilis japonica* (Japanese Hedge Parsley)." Minnesota Wildflowers, nd, <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/japanese-hedge-parsley>. Accessed 7/16/19.