

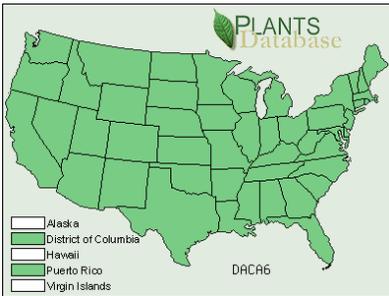


# Queen Anne's Lace *Daucus carota* L.

**Common Names:** Queen Anne's lace, bird's nest, wild carrot

**Native Origin:** Europe

**Description:** An erect herbaceous biennial in the carrot family (*Apiaceae*) growing 2-4 feet in height. Stems are erect, hairy, hollow, grooved, branched at top and may be reddish at the base. Leaves are basal, alternate, pinnately compound with 1 to several finely divided, fernlike leaflets. Leaves increase in size toward the base of the stem and have carrot-like odor. Basal rosettes remain green over winter. Upper leaves of second-year plants are stalkless with white sheaths at leaf bases. Flowers are small, 5-petaled, white, and occur in a terminal, umbrella-shaped cluster at the ends of the stems. The plant produces a succession of flowering stalks until it dies with the first frost. The primary umbel curls inward representing a bird's nest. The small brown fruits are dry and ribbed with bristly hairs. Fruits have hooked spines that attach to clothing or animal fur and aid in dispersal. One plant can produce 1,000 to 40,000 seeds. The root system is comprised of a long slender white taproot and fibrous secondary roots. Roots may become woody with age and have a carrot-like odor and taste. Reproduction is by seed.



**Habitat:** It grows in disturbed dry grasslands, fields, meadows, pastures, ditches, waste places, and railroad and highway rights-of-ways. It prefers well-drained, fine-particle soil and full sun.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CT, GA, HI, KY, MD, MI, MO, NJ, OR, TN, VA, WA, WI, and WV.

**Ecological Impacts:** Queen Ann's lace invades open waste ground, competing for resources with native grasses and forbs. It can be a threat to recovering grasslands and prairies where it occurs because it matures faster and grows larger than many native species. It tends to appear after prescribed burning, however, it may decline as native grasses and herbaceous plants become established. Plant leaves cause skin irritation in some people and cause cows to produce off-tasting milk after eating large quantities.

### Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Hand-pull or mow close to the ground before seed set in mid to late summer. Use gloves when handling this plant. Burning does not help control this invasive plant and fire may induce seeds to sprout.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as 2,4-D and triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

### References:

www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm)  
 Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, an Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 104, <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/daucarr.html>,  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/queenannslace.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/queenannslace.html),  
[www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/Daucuca.htm](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/Daucuca.htm)