

**WEED FILE:**

**PARSLEY DROPWORT**



**DESCRIPTION**

Parsley Dropwort – *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*

Parsley dropwort is very often known as ‘carrot weed’ although it is not closely related to the wild carrot species.

It is common in Northland and South Auckland, but also exists in other North Island locations. It grows in pastures as well as waste areas, roadsides, disturbed ground, sports fields and lawns.

Parsley dropwort is a perennial weed, and can be highly invasive when growing in its preferred conditions. It grows very aggressively in pasture, where it is a serious problem because stock will not eat it due to its unpalatable taste. This lack of palatability is especially the case when the plant forms upright flower stalks in late spring.

In appearance, it is a parsley-like plant, spreading from a central stem, and reaching a height of 30-90 cm. The leaves grow on stalks in a rosette arrangement, with opposite leaflet segments, appearing much like the herb parsley (hence the name). The flowers appear in spring at the top of the taller flower stalks, in small clusters (umbels) of individual white blooms about 4mm diameter. The flowers appear from October to April.

The roots of the dropwort parsley have small black tubers towards the ends. These tubers can enable regrowth of the plant following control attempts.

Inclusion of parsley dropwort in hay will lower the quality of the hay, and is also responsible for the spread of the weed to further locations if the affected hay is sold and transported.

The sometimes-confused wild carrot is not similar at all, and is distinguishable by its leaves, which are almost identical to those of the common vegetable garden carrot.

Parsley dropwort might also be confused with the hemlock, which has similar white flowers on umbels. However, the hemlock has leaves that are distinctly fern-like in shape.



**HERBICIDE CONTROL**

The only effective method of control is with herbicide. Boom and spot spraying are commonly used, but there is very good potential to use wipers after late spring, when the parsley dropwort is taller than the pasture.

**Spray:**

- **2,4-D** sprayed by boom at 3L/Ha (using a 680g/L strength 2,4-D) is the most commonly used treatment, applied in autumn, early winter or early spring. Note that in Northland this herbicide cannot be used in spring after August.
- **MSF600** sprayed by handgun at 30g/100L water, plus 100ml **SuperWetter** penetrant, is effective in waste areas where pasture grass damage is not an issue.
- **Glyphosate 360** sprayed at 4-5L/Ha by boom for cleaning out prior to pasture renewal or cropping, will also take out the parsley dropwort present. If using **Glyphosate 450** then the rate is 3.2L-4L/Ha.
- **Cobber** sprayed at 100ml/100L water is an effective spot spray treatment and can be sprayed over pasture and ornamental grasses, although it will damage clover.

**Wiper:**

- **MSF600** at 2g/L water and **Glyphosate** at 1L per 2L water are both effective applied by wiper, and can be very cost-effective compared to the boom spray options if terrain permits wiper operation.

Note: The small tubers on the roots of parsley dropwort can enable it to regrow after control attempts, and it is therefore not realistic to expect permanent eradication from a single treatment. Follow-up treatment of regrowth will be necessary.