



Leaves: Rosette leaves are pinnately compound with 5-15 broad, ovate to oblong leaflets. Stem leaves are alternate, with 2-5 pairs of opposite, sharply toothed leaflets. Petioles wrap around the stem. Upper stem leaves are reduced to narrow bracts.

Flowers: Numerous, small, 5-petaled, yellow flowers in umbels 2-6" wide at the tops of stems and branches. Blooms from late spring to mid-summer.

Fruits & seeds: Seeds are flat, round, yellowish, and slightly ribbed. Seeds remain viable in the soil for 4 years.

Roots: Long, thick taproot.

Similar species: Wild parsnip can be confused with 2 native prairie species—golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) and prairie parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*). Golden Alexander is shorter and its leaves have only 3-7 leaflets. Prairie parsley leaves have few teeth and its flowers are rounded, not flat like wild parsnip.

CAUTION: When sap contacts skin in the presence of sunlight, it can cause severe rashes, blisters, and discoloration of the skin (phytophotodermatitis). Wear gloves, long sleeves, and long pants when handling.