

Queen Anne's lace

Daucus carota

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Umbellales
Family: Apiaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, nonnative

FEATURES

Queen Anne's lace is also known as wild carrot. This biennial herb grows from an elongated taproot. The stems are upright, branched and hairy. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. The hairy leaves are doubly compound. Flat clusters of tiny, white flowers are produced at the stem tip. The flowers give a lacelike appearance. There is usually a single, dark purple flower or flowers in the center of the cluster. The spent flower clusters turn brown and curl, taking the shape of a bird's nest. The bracts below the flower clusters are three-forked. The fruit is a schizocarp, a dry structure that splits at maturity into two or more sections, each containing one seed. Queen Anne's lace may attain a height of two to three feet.

BEHAVIORS

Queen Anne's lace may be found throughout Illinois. It grows in field edges and roadsides. Flowers are produced from May through October. Seeds may attach to the feathers of birds or the hair of mammals and can be transmitted when these animals move. This plant is a commercial source of carotene. The cultivated carrot is a race of this species. Queen Anne's lace is a native of Europe that was transported to the United States with early settlers and has spread tremendously.

ILLINOIS RANGE



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flowers

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge