

71 Reasons to Work on Wild Chervil

Wild ginger, Wake robin /trilium, Coltsfoot, Trout Lily, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Bloodroot, Violet, Pussytoes, Canada Mayflower, Mustard, Wild strawberry, Celandine poppy, Gill-over-the-ground, Yellow hawkweed, Red hawkweed/ Indian paintbrush, Sweet Cicely, Daisy fleabane, False solomon's seal;

Also, Blue-eyed grass (iris), Ox-eye daisy, Red clover (the Vermont State Flower), White clover, Yellow clover, White sweet clover, Buttercup, Moneywort, Selfheal, Bladder campion, Common campion, Yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, Golden Alexanders, Rough Cinquefoil, St. John's wort, Cheddar pinks, Meadow rue, Meadow sweet, Stitchwort chickweed, Black-eyed Susan, Thimble berry, Thimbleweed anenome;

And furthermore--Purple vetch, Bittersweet nightshade, Fireweed, Horseweed, Sedum, Mullien, Vervain, Hop clover, Common cinquefoil, Wood sorrel, Jewel weed, Wild mint, Peppermint, Wild parsnip, Yellow goatsbeard, Butter-and-eggs, Lobelia inflata /Indian tobacco, Rough avens, Rabbit foot clover, Goldenrods-several types, New England aster, New York aster, Flat topped aster, Heart leaved aster, Turtlehead, Milkweed, Interrupted fern, Bracken fern, Oak fern, Cinnamon fern

This is a list of 71 plants I observed in the course of walks up one mile of Class 3 road in Bethel during 2001. They are 71 reasons why I work to control wild chervil. These plants would be obliterated if wild chervil were allowed to spread along this roadside.



I've been digging out and cutting back chervil along this road for four years. During this period, other nearby roadsides have been almost totally inundated by wild chervil, and the plant is now invading fields and woods back from the roadsides.

Beyond the plant diversity lost to invasives like wild chervil, the insects and animals who feed on, pollinate, and shelter in those 71 types of plants are drastically affected. And the effect ripples out to the animals who feed on those insects, etc. Much more than pretty flowers is being lost.

❖ Victoria Weber, 2002

The alternative: wild chervil has invaded a hayfield. Randolph Center, VT