

Reporting poison hemlock

If you believe you have found poison hemlock, email arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us and send a picture of the purple spots on the stem, a leaf, and the specific location of the plant. Reporting helps us track the extent of the invasion and need for future control across the state. Natural resource and other land management professionals should use the GLEDN app to report poison hemlock plants.

Management and surveillance

Management options, including mechanical and herbicide, are outlined on our website at z.umn.edu/poisonhemlock. Due to seeds persisting in the soil, make sure to check the same area the next spring for dark, green lacy-leaved plants, and report any findings.

Disposal

If your garbage service accepts poisonous plants (as does Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted and Winona counties), place the plants in plastic bags and put them in the garbage. The bags will protect the health of the people who handle the garbage even after leaving your property.

If your county does not accept poisonous plants, bury the plants, flowers and seed heads in a plastic bag in an area that will remain undisturbed.

CAUTION

Do not compost poison hemlock. Seeds and toxin can persist in composted soil.
Do not burn poison hemlock as this may release the toxin.

**For suspected ingestion call the
Minnesota Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222**

Human and livestock health impacts

All parts of poison hemlock (roots, stems, leaves, and seeds) are extremely toxic to humans and livestock when ingested; small amounts can be deadly. Livestock poisoning usually occurs from the presence of poison hemlock in hay or when pastures are overgrazed and other sources of food have been depleted.

This toxin impacts the nervous system causing trembling, salivation, lack of coordination, dilated pupils, weak pulse, respiratory paralysis, coma and death. Extra care should be taken to wear protective clothing and eyewear before working with or exposure to poison hemlock.

CAUTION

It is highly recommended that you call a professional to handle poison hemlock. Use caution and wear protective clothing, gloves, and eyewear if you choose to handle it.

**For more information on poison
hemlock visit our website at
z.umn.edu/poisonhemlock**

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Poison Hemlock

Plant Identification,
Reporting Finds, and
Management Strategies



MINNESOTA INVASIVE SPECIES

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

An unwelcome guest

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is an invasive plant native to Europe and North Africa. It is highly toxic to humans and livestock, and may result in death if ingested.

Poison hemlock requires considerable sunlight to flourish and is **found often near railways, rivers, ditches, field edges, farms and bike paths**. It is unlikely to grow in very shady areas or places that are frequently mowed.

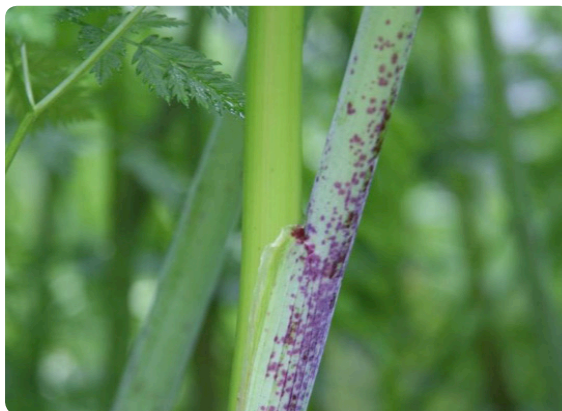
Identifying poison hemlock

Poison hemlock is a biennial plant. Plants in their first year are attractive, shaggy mounds of lacy, dark-green leaves. Poison hemlock plants in their second year are usually 4-6 feet tall (with extremes from 1-9 feet). Leaves are triangular, dark green, very lacy, and fern-like. Stems are hollow between nodes, ridged, and hairless with purple spots or blotches.

Flowers are white with five notched petals arranged in an umbel (umbrella shape) approximately 2 to 3 inches across. Blooms will likely get your attention May through August, when airy, lacy flowers appear high up on the plant. This white lacy look is a distinguishing characteristic when viewed from a distance.

Look-alikes: take a second look

Many native plants look similar to poison hemlock, including Angelica, common ragweed, common elderberry, tall meadow rue, yarrow, cow parsnip and water hemlock. There are also several noxious weeds, including Queen Anne's lace, giant hogweed, and wild parsnip. More information and photos of these lookalikes are available at z.umn.edu/poisonhemlock.



Poison hemlock stems are hollow, hairless, appear ridged, and have purple spots.



Poison hemlock leaves are triangular and lacy.
Photo courtesy Katy Chayka, MinnesotaWildflowers.info



Flowers are arranged in an umbrella shape.
Photo courtesy Pedro Tenorio-Lezama, Bugwood.org



Plants are usually 4-6 feet tall. In summer, flowers bloom high on plant, and appear very airy and lacy.



Poison hemlock seeds.