

# Poison Hemlock Fact Sheet

*Conium maculatum*

Apiaceae Family



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## Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Small, white flowers found in umbrella-like clusters.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Long, barrel-shaped, ribbed, 1/8 inches long.
- ❸ **Leaves/Stems:** Triangular, lacey fern-like leaves. Stems are ribbed, green with purple spots, and hollow.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** Biennial and doesn't flower until the second year. After the first year, flowers appear June - August.
- ❺ **Life cycle/Other:** Flower stems persist through the winter, allowing for a long seed dispersal period (from September through February). This plant is often mistaken for wild parsnip or wild carrot.

## Impacts:

- **Toxic to humans, wildlife, and livestock, affecting the central nervous and reproductive systems.** Sensitive people may experience contact dermatitis when handling this plant.
- Invades rangelands, pastures, roadsides, and cultivated fields, reducing forage for livestock and wildlife.
- Poison hemlock reproduces solely via seed. One plant may produce up to 30,000 seeds, which remain viable for 3-6 years.



Ohio State Weed Lab Archive, Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

## Control:

- Hand pulling is the most effective method of controlling small infestations. Protective clothing should be worn when working in areas with this weed, and inhalation of plant particles should be minimized.
- Minimize soil disturbance, which encourages further germination of seeds at infested sites. Plowing or repeated mowing of newly germinated plants will prevent Poison hemlock from reestablishing.
- For larger infestations, broadleaf selective herbicides such as 2,4-D and triclopyr are most effective when used on seedlings or small rosettes. Herbicides are not effective on fully mature plants.

\*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



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