



Guide for Removal of Poison Hemlock

DESCRIPTION

- ◆ Tall, biennial; first year forms a rosette/ 2nd year grows up to 10 feet.
- ◆ Rosette at base with fern-like leaves/ strong smell
- ◆ Reproduces through seeds
- ◆ Rapid growth from March to May
- ◆ **Acutely toxic to animals and humans when ingested, causes respiratory paralysis.**
- ◆ Crowds out desirable vegetation, takes over plant communities
- ◆ Pollen from flowers may cause adverse reaction.



POISON HEMLOCK IDENTIFICATION

- ◆ First year plants form rosettes (see picture below) from clumps of lacy leaves with some reddish spots on stems. Leaves are feathery, fern-like, may resemble wild carrot.
- ◆ Second year stems: stout, tall, hollow, hairless, ribbed with reddish or purple spotting/streaking. Second year plants can be up to 10 feet tall.
- ◆ Tiny white flowers with 5 petals that grow in umbrella shaped clusters (second year).
- ◆ Often found in disturbed areas, roadsides and wetlands.

MANUAL CONTROL

Always wear protective equipment when handling poison hemlock. Long sleeves and gloves are highly recommended.

Digging/Pulling

- ◆ Using hand tools (shovel, mattock, etc.) you can dig up or pull the plant from the soil.
- ◆ Make sure to remove the root fully to the extent feasible. Best time for removal is before the plant flowers in late spring.
- ◆ To prevent germination of the seeds, it is recommended to add mulch or replace the plant with desired native vegetation. All mature seed-producing plants need to be removed to prevent further spread.
- ◆ Note: flower heads left on the ground can easily become viable. **Do not compost the plant, place in a plastic bag in the trash.** For larger infestations chemical control may be more suited.

Mowing is not recommended due to the risk of breathing in plant particles. Cut plants will regrow.

Danger! Poison hemlock can look like wild carrot.

To distinguish between plants: wild carrot has plain green and hairy stems, grows only up to 3 feet, and blooms in late summer.

First year poison hemlock rosette.



Poison hemlock adult plant (8-10 ft tall)



Comparison between wild carrot stem and poison hemlock.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

There are various herbicides that may help with preventing and managing poison hemlock. Spraying the foliage in spring and once more in late summer has proven to be effective in management of this weed.

Spraying may prevent regrowth but not seed production in mature plants, making re-spray paramount. A broad-leaf selective herbicide may be a good solution for grassy areas.

Always follow directions on the herbicide label. For more information, contact Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Department. Regulations and special rules apply for spraying near bodies of water.

*If you live on a **fee-simple** land parcel, Snohomish County Noxious Weeds may be able to provide some services to aid in control of this weed.



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