

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



ALIEN INVADERS



POISON HEMLOCK

Conium maculatum

BASIC ID

This highly toxic biennial has a basal rosette during its first year and an upright flower stalk reaching up to 6' in the second year. It has dissected leaves and umbrella-shaped clusters of small white flowers. The stems and leaf stalks are hairless with distinctive purple spots or blotches. If bruised, the plant releases an unpleasant mouse-like odor. Seeds are brown and ribbed.

FACTS

Native to Eurasia and introduced as an ornamental. Typically grows in pastures, roadsides, ditches, marshy areas, and stream banks. All parts of poison hemlock contain toxic substances that cause respiratory and nervous system failure in humans and other animals if ingested. Seeds and roots are more toxic than foliage. Historically, this is the plant that killed Socrates.

MANAGEMENT

- Hand pulling and seed head removal are effective, especially prior to seed development.
- Mow in spring and early summer to prevent flowering and seed set.
- Burn or herbicide in the rosette stage.

**CAUTION:
ALL PARTS ARE TOXIC.**

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Bugwood.org
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