

Poison Hemlock, an invasive plant, has been identified in our region. The plant can cause skin to become severely irritated. Residents are cautioned to seek immediate medical help if consumed; Poison Hemlock is highly poisonous.



Photo courtesy of King County, Noxious Weeds, Seattle, WA

IDENTIFICATION

SIZE	A biennial plant, growing up to 3 - 3.5 meters tall.
LEAVES	Shiny, green and feathery, similar to carrot. Strong musty odour.
STEMS	Purple blotches on smooth (hairless) stems.
FLOWERS	White flowers in umbrella-like clusters supported by a stalk.

Poison Hemlock looks similar to Wild Carrot/Queen Anne's Lace and Pacific Hemlock-Parsley, which are both smaller plants and flower later in summer.



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Wild Carrot / Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

Wild Carrot/Queen Anne's Lace, another invasive plant, has tiny hairs on the stems and is also solid green on its stem (no purple blotches). White flowers grow in umbrella-like clusters and may have one purple or red flower in the centre.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Pacific Hemlock-Parsley (*Conioselinum pacificum*)

Pacific Hemlock-Parsley leaves are fern-like on typically hairless stems. It is a short plant with white flower heads that are smaller but similar in shape to those of Wild Carrot. Native to our region, it is found along the shorelines on the Pacific coast from California to Alaska.

Health & Safety Alert

All parts of Poison Hemlock are highly **poisonous!** Use gloves and protective clothing when handling this plant, washing all clothing and tools afterwards and taking caution to avoid skin contact with plant materials.

Agricultural & Ecological Impacts

Poison hemlock crowds out desirable forage species and can poison livestock and humans. Although not an aggressive invader, poison hemlock may gradually increase in native riparian and lowland communities.

Landfilling

DO NOT BURN OR COMPOST



Gooseneck tie

- 1) Dispose of all plant parts in 3-4 mil poly (.003 to .004 inch thick). Extra thick bags are required to avoid ripping by cut stems.
- 2) Label bags 'Invasive Plants' and tie off using a gooseneck tie and a zap strap.
- 3) Take to one of the CVRD drop off depots and tell the attendant you're disposing 'Posion Hemlock':

Bings Creek Recycling Centre
Meade Creek Recycling Centre
Peerless Road Recycling Centre

References/Links

Coastal Invasive Species Committee
Provincial Containment -
Province of BC
Toxic Plant Warning, WorkSafeBC



Photo courtesy of King County, Noxious Weeds, Seattle, WA

Warning

Toxic to humans and animals - if any portion of the plant is ingested, seek medical attention immediately.

Removal of Poison Hemlock

Prevent seed development and dispersal by completely removing the plant before flowering if possible.

- Cut off flowers to prevent seeds from growing.
- Cut plants that cannot be dug or pulled. Sever any large taproots 3 cm below ground. Dispose of all parts and clean site.
- Return to site to check for regrowth.
- Young plants and small infestations can be removed by digging/pulling up roots; this is easiest when the soil is moist.



Photo courtesy of King County, Noxious Weeds, Seattle, WA

Precaution

Suit up with waterproof gloves, a rubber raincoat, pants, respiratory protection, and eye protection to ensure skin and eyes are protected from all parts of the plant.

No biological control agents are available.
For more information refer to: www.worksafebc.com

After careful identification, please report sightings of Poison Hemlock to the Coastal Invasive Species Committee at 1.844.298.2532 and provide specific location of suspect plant.