

Invasive Plant Species -

Poison Hemlock

Orange County ANR - Updates

Warning

ALL parts of this plant are poisonous to both animals and humans. Use Caution when managing this plant.



Description

- Member of the Parsley family
- Biennial Growth Patterns - low lying rosette
- Distinctive PURPLE spotting on the stems
- Umbrella-shaped flower clusters
- Fern like leaves
- Mature Seeds in August/September - spreading via mowing/agriculture equipment
- Often confused with Wild Carrot (Queen Anne's Lace) or Wild Cow Parsnip

Impact/Distribution

- Contains highly poisonous alkaloid compounds that can be fatal to humans & livestock
- Can be found along roads, streams, forest edges, & waste areas
- Spreads via SEED
- AVOID working, recreating, walking, or driving through infested areas during seed dispersal time periods



How to Control

The most effective control may be mowing - to prevent seed production, followed by an herbicide application to the rosettes and re-sprouts.

Manual Control

Effective for single plants or very small infestations

Pull or dig up all plants, place in a trash bag and dispose with regular trash.

Wear protective clothing, eye protection, and gloves to prevent the plant from contacting skin.

Mechanical Control

Mowing or Cutting - but MUST be repeated often due to the taproot system.

Tilling or Grubbing can kill the hemlock and prevent seed production, but not recommended due to soil disturbance.

Chemical Control

Effective for large infestations and for spot spray applications

Herbicide application should be applied while the plant is actively growing and BEFORE flowering.

Use herbicides containing at least 41% concentration of Glyphosate and follow label instructions to mix a 2% spray solution. Wet all surfaces of the plant, but not to the point of runoff. **Use caution as Glyphosate is nonselective and will damage or kill any plant it comes into contact with**

2,4-D or Triclopyr: Broadleaf-specific herbicides that will not harm grasses. Most effective on first-year rosettes or very small second-year plants.

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Information in this update can be found at:
<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/harrison/anr-storage/poison-hemlock-article.pdf>

