

Poison Hemlock, *Conium maculatum*



Identification: Three- to seven-foot biennial. Blooms early summer. Erect hollow branching stems, alternate leaves, pinnately dissected and fern-like. Flowers in compound, flat-top umbel. Enlarged taproot. Reproduces prolifically by seed.

Habitat: Waste areas, roadways, ditches, pastures and edges of cultivated fields

Animals Affected: Humans and all livestock

Toxin Family: Piperidine alkaloids (neurotoxins); all plant parts are poisonous.

Other: Causes respiratory failure and paralysis, leading to coma and death. Can cause skeletal defects in calves if eaten in small amounts by pregnant cows. Strong odor prevents palatability unless no other forage available.