Native to Europe, poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is an herbaceous biennial plant that was brought to North America as a garden plant and escaped cultivation. It contains compounds that are deadly to humans, livestock, and wildlife.

Poison hemlock forms a basal rosette in its first year and flowers in its second year. The low growing rosette has fern-like leaves. The plant has a hollow stalk with deep ridges and purple spotting. Flowers bloom between May and August in 3-6 inch clusters called umbels. The plant produces abundant seeds that can be transported by mowing, on other equipment, by wind, water, and by wildlife.

**Impacts of poison hemlock on your community**

Poison hemlock displaces forage and native vegetation. It may be mistaken for wild carrot also called Queen Anne’s lace or other carrot family members, and has been found growing in fields, roadside ditches and on stream banks.

Poisoning symptoms include nervous trembling, salivation, pupil dilation, and rapid, weak pulse eventually leading to coma or death. If you suspect poison hemlock poisoning, call Minnesota Poison Control Systems at 1-800-222-1222 or 911 if immediately.

**Poison hemlock management**

Poison hemlock is a prohibited noxious weed on the eradicate list, which means that all of the above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed, as required by law. Additionally, no transportation, propagation, or sale of these plants is allowed.

- Wear protective clothing including closed-toe boots, long sleeves, long pants, and gloves when handling this species.
- Continually mowing infestations before seed development is effective in preventing seed from spreading.
- Spring and fall herbicide application can greatly reduce populations over time.

**What to do if you suspect you found poison hemlock**

To report infestations of poison hemlock, please do the following.

- Note the exact location with address or GPS coordinates.
- If it is possible, take digital photos of the whole plant, rosettes, flowers, and seed stalks that can be emailed for identification.
- Infestations can be reported to one of two places:
  1. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) by email at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us, or voicemail 1-888-545-6684.
  2. Directly to EDDMapS through the Great Lakes Early Detection Network app on a smartphone or tablet.

To learn more about the MDA’s Noxious and Invasive Weed Program and the Noxious Weed Law and Lists, please visit: [www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol)