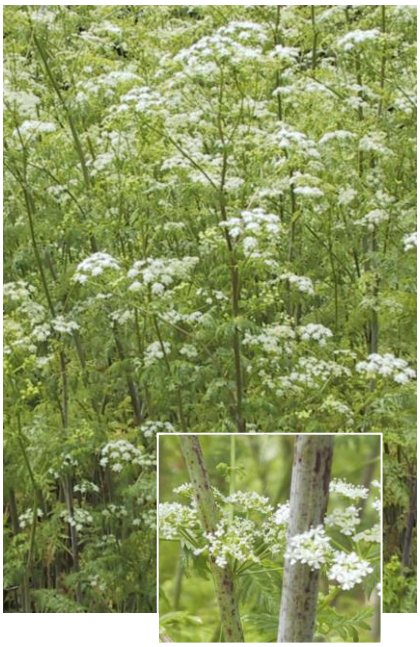
Control Options for Poison Hemlock

General Information

Poison hemlock, a member of the carrot family, resembles carrot and other edible plants. All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and animals. Do not eat any plant in the carrot family unless you are certain of its identification.



Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Small stands of poison hemlock can be controlled through hand removal. Plants should be dug, taking care to remove the entire long taproot. Plant parts should be disposed of in sealed plastic bags. Plant parts remain poisonous even after dried. Gloves should be used when handling all parts of the plant, and hands should be washed thoroughly afterwards. Disturbance of the soil during manual control may cause the germination of any hemlock seeds in the soil, so the area should be monitored to control any new seedlings.

Chemical Recommendations

Poison hemlock can be controlled using specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. If spraying is the chosen option, spray late in the evening to reduce the direct impact on pollinating insects. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

2,4-D (marketed under a variety of brands) can be applied to seedlings in the rosette stage. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength. Adding a surfactant may increase the effectiveness of the treatment.

Glyphosate (RoundUp®, many other names) can be applied to actively growing plants before they begin stem elongation in the spring. An herbicide containing a 41% or higher concentration of glyphosate should be used, and it should be mixed to a 2% product spray solution (2.66 oz/gallon of water). Spray plants until they are just wet. Glyphosate will kill grass and other vegetation so care should be taken if used around desired vegetation. A stem injection of 5% glyphosate can also be effective. Each cane should be injected with a hand-held device about 10-12 inches above the root crown.

NEVER apply RoundUp® or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use. Ingredients in non-aquatic products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Aquatic formulations of herbicides are generally only available to licensed pesticide applicators in Washington State. If the target plants are immediately adjacent to or are in standing water, a state permit may be required in order to treat those plants with an aquatically approved herbicide.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook and Thurston County Noxious weed Program (Olympia WA).