WANTED—Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

Poison Hemlock

Alias: Conium maculatum

This hemlock is native to Europe and is found throughout the U.S. It grows along streams and irrigation and roadside ditches, and invades crop and pasturelands. All plant parts contain alkaloids and are poisonous. Poison hemlock is often mistaken for parsley.

Animals do not eat it, unless other food is scarce. Both poison hemlock and western water hemlock have large taproots. The purple spots on the stems of poison hemlock distinguish it from water hemlock. Poison hemlock is listed as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.

Distinguishing features:

- The plant typically grows 6 to 8 feet tall. The stems are ridged and have distinct purple spots.
- Compound leaves are lacy, resembling parsley, and have a musty odor. The leaflets are less than ¼ inch long. Seedlings may appear fern-like.
- White flowers are found at the end of branches in umbel clusters.

Take action:

- Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- Avoid walking on, driving on, or camping in infested areas.
- Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area. Equipment may require steam cleaning before moving to new areas.
- Monitor irrigated plantings, roadsides, and moist, bare areas. Carefully remove any seeds and dig up the plant wearing gloves. Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots, all in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may also be available to kill this plant.

Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension
775-784-1334;
Nevada Division of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry,
775-688-1180; or
Your local Weed District manager or Conservation District: