WANTED—Dead, Not Alive!

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

Western Waterhemlock

Alias: Cicuta douglasii

This weed is native to the intermountain region, which includes Nevada. It is a wetland plant and is frequently found along streams, irrigation and roadside ditches, in pastures, and other moist areas. This hemlock is extremely poisonous, one of the most poisonous plants found in North America. The juice in the root is the most poisonous part of the plant. It is often mistaken for water-parsnip and other members of the parsen family.

Western waterhemlock is listed as a noxious weed by the Nevada Administrative Code.

Distinguishing features

- The stem grows 3 to 7 feet tall and may be swollen at base.
- Leaves are pinnately compound. The leaflets are toothed, with veins ending at the bottom of each tooth. This is the identifying characteristic.
- Flowers are white and occur in termi
  umbels that are flat on top. 2 kidney shaped seeds are produced by each flower.
- The roots have horizontal chambers, visible when the root is split in half. This is an easily recognized characteristic. Take care checking the root, as it is the most poisonous part of the plant.

Take action:

- Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- 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 wet, bare areas. Carefully remove any seeds and dig up the plant. Wear gloves and remember this plant is poisonous. Dispose of 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: