

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Also called: Poison parsley

Family name: Carrot (Apiaceae)

Native range: Europe

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 1- Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately* treathening to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Biennial herb (after 2 years, it sets seed and dies), to 3'-8'
- Smooth green stems are stout, hollow and purple spotted
- Crushed foliage and roots have a disagreeable parsnip-like smell
- Thick white taproot
- **Poisonous- Can result in death if ingested**



Leaves:

- Shiny green, fern-like
- 3-4 times pinnately compound



Flowers:

- Blooms in early summer
- Small & white in umbrella shaped clusters



Fruit:

- Seeds borne in pairs, atop umbrella shaped clusters
- Fruit cluster is same shape as flower cluster



Habitat:

- Roadsides, open fields, stream banks, and other disturbed areas
- Dry to moist soil

Commercial Availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

- Native to Eurasia, weedy, commonly eaten
- Yellow flowers in umbrella-shaped clusters
- Over 5' tall
- **CAUTION: Contains chemicals in leaves that may cause skin irritation when exposed to sun**



Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)

- Native to North America
- Found in moist soils
- Leaves are compound and serrated
- Grows to 6.5'
- White, umbrella flowers
- Smooth stems, purple at nodes
- When crushed- licorice scent
- **May be fatal if eaten!**



Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

- Roadside weed, 1'-3' tall
- Fern-like leaves
- White, umbrella flowers surrounded by threadlike bracts
- White taproot has carrot scent