

NOXIOUS WEED ALERT

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area
Tom Perkins, Weed Coordinator- 705-3528

In cooperation with:

Edgewood SWCD 832-1111, East Torrance SWCD 384-2272 & Claunch-Pinto SWCD 847-2243

POISON HEMLOCK

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KEY INFORMATION

- All plants are poisonous!
- The seeds contain the highest concentration of poison.
- The plants can even cause toxic reactions when inhaled.

DESCRIPTION

- The flowers are white with green leaf-like petals at the base that form an umbrella like cluster.
- The stems are smooth, purple-spotted and hollow.
- The leaves are shiny green, triangular and are divided into parts.
- The seeds are paired, light brown and barrel shaped.
- The roots are white and fleshy. The odor is similar to carrots but the foliage has a strong musty odor.
- Can grow from 3-8 feet even up to 10ft.



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TREATMENT OPTIONS

Mechanical

- To prevent seeds from spreading along the waterway minimize soil disturbance.
- Eradicate new infestations of one to a few plants immediately. (preferably before the plant sets seed)
- Plowing or repeated cultivation will prevent poison hemlock establishment.

Biological

- The control agent has been approved for use. The best agent is the moth larvae.



DAMAGE

- Misidentification of poison hemlock with other members of the carrot family is very common and can be deadly.
- Symptoms of poisoning can occur within 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the animal.

SPREAD

- It can invade perennial crops like alfalfa.
- Poison hemlock is a biennial that spreads by seed.

HABITAT

- It tends to grow in moist pastures and meadows and competes with desirable native species.
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