

# POISON HEMLOCK

*Conium maculatum*



Wikimedia Commons

Mature Height	4 to 12 feet	Soil Type	All
Mature Spread	Colonizes	Flower Color	White
Mature Form	Upright-Branched	Foliage Color	Bright Green
Growth Rate	Rapid	Fall Color	Dead brown stems and seed heads
Sun Exposure	Full to partial Shade		
Soil Moisture	Prefers Moist but grows in all conditions		

Poison Hemlock is a lethally poisonous herbaceous plant of the Parsley family. It has rank, finely divided foliage, flat-topped clusters of small white flowers, and a hollow, purple-mottled stem. It is very common in Indiana and can grow to well over 6 feet tall.. Reproduces by seed. When ingested by humans or animals, it causes paralysis, convulsions, and eventual death. Poison hemlock was used in ancient Greece in executions; a famous example was the philosopher Socrates. The evergreen trees called [hemlock](#) are unrelated. Control can be achieved with herbicides labeled for this plant; Repeat applications are often necessary because of seed staying viable in the soil. Although this plant is not on the current Indiana Invasive Plant list, it is included here because of its rapid spread in our area and its status as a health hazard.



National Park Service



Hoosier Heartland RC & D Photos



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

