

Invasive Species Factsheet-Poison Hemlock

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Species Common Name: Poison Hemlock

Species Scientific Name: *Conium maculatum*

Native Range and Introduction: The species is native to Eurasia, was first thought to be introduced in the United States by contaminated seed in the 1890's. It is now primarily moved by garden waste, land vehicles, and animals.

Description: Biennial plant that grows from a taproot to a four to eight foot plant the second year. Very stout stems which are covered in purple blotches. Very distinctive leaves that are pinnately divided into three or four segments. Lower leaves clasp the stem while upper leaves have a short petiole. Flowers are small and white in an umbel shape at the top of the plant. Plant usually has a musky odor. Extremely poisonous to livestock and humans, with the root tubers (the first few inches of root) being the most toxic.

Ecological and Economical Threats: Ecological threats include displacement of native vegetation and loss of biodiversity. This hardy plant species forms dense canopy and choking out other vegetation. It can cause large economical loses by poisoning of livestock, also is known to be a host for insect and pathogens that can negatively affect cash crops especially carrots.

Regulated Status in Wyoming: Poison Hemlock is on Campbell County Declared Noxious Species List along with five other counties in Wyoming. It is also on the North American Invasive Species Management Association Weed Free Forage Noxious Species List that Wyoming uses for weed free forage standards.

Distribution in Wyoming: Poison Hemlock is found in 12 of 23 counties in Wyoming, primarily in the east half of the state.

Control Options:

Mechanical: Chopping or disking is probably your best bet mechanically because of the hardy taproot, just make sure the plant is removed below the soil surface.

Chemical: A few herbicides work well for this species including a Banvel (Dicamba) and 2,4-D combo that would be great in most situations. Others includes Tordon 22K (Picloram), Plateau (Imazapic), or Escort XP (Methsulfuron Methyl).

Biological: An insect, Defoliating Hemlock Moth, which attacks the plant and leads to less vigor and less seed production.

Integrated Weed Management: A June herbicide application along with a late summer mechanical control mechanism for a few years could nearly eradicate this species.

Online Resources:

URL: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=4365>

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/14820>

Image 1 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5399736>

Image 2 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5476593>

Image 3 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5374189>



Image 1-Leaves



Image 2-Spotted Stem



Image 3-Flowering Plant

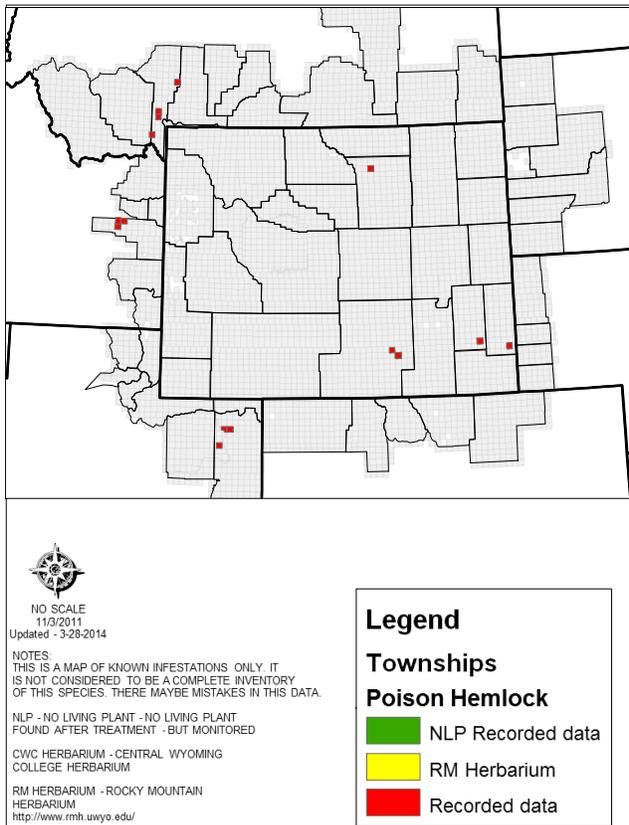


Figure 1-Poison Hemlock Distribution in Wyoming and Surrounding States

URL: http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/County_Declared_Weed_maps/Poison_hemlock.pdf