



Control Options for Poison Hemlock



General Information

Poison hemlock, a member of the carrot family, resembles carrot and other edible plants. All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and animals. Do not eat any plant in the carrot family unless you are certain of its identification.

Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Small stands of poison hemlock can be controlled through hand removal. Plants should be dug, taking care to remove the entire long taproot. Plant parts should be disposed of responsibly, as plant parts remain poisonous even after dried. Gloves should be

used when handling all parts of the plant, and hands should be washed thoroughly afterwards. Disturbance of the soil during manual control may cause the germination of any hemlock seeds in the soil, so the area should be monitored to control any new seedlings.



Chemical Recommendations

Poison hemlock can be controlled using specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

2,4-D (marketed under a variety of brands) can be applied to seedlings in the rosette stage. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength. Adding a surfactant may increase the effectiveness of the treatment.

Glyphosate (marketed as RoundUp and many other brands) can be applied to actively growing plants before they begin to bolt. An herbicide containing a 41% or higher concentration of glyphosate should be used, and it should be mixed to a 2% product spray solution. Glyphosate will kill grass and other vegetation so care should be taken if used around desired vegetation. The loss of surrounding plants also may allow germination of any hemlock seeds in the soil.

Spray plants until they are just wet. *NEVER apply Round-up or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use.* Ingredients in these products may be toxic to fish.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook 2010.