

Invasive Species of Truckee Meadows

Poison Hemlock *Conium maculatum*



Identification

Poison hemlock initially forms as a large rosette with dark, glossy leaves. During the second year of growth, it develops branching stems covered in purple spots and triangular, fern-like leaves. Stems shoot upwards and grow 3 to 8 feet tall, developing small, white flowers clustered at the end of the stalks.

Reproduction

Poison hemlock reproduces by seed, most of which establish close to the parent plant and eventually develop into clusters of individual plants. Seeds are also spread by water, humans, birds and animals. It dies after seeding, but over a lifetime can produce up to 30,000 seeds that remain viable in the soil for 2 to 6 years.

Management

Prevention and early detection help minimize establishment. For small infestations, hand pulling, cutting, and digging out the entire taproot are sufficient techniques. Wear protective clothing, mask and gloves to prevent skin exposure and inhalation of toxins. Moving and tilling are effective if implemented at the appropriate time of poison hemlock's life cycle. For larger infestations, herbicide treatment can be used on seedlings or small rosettes.



Always read and follow directions listed on the herbicide label.

Plant These Native Alternatives:



Virginia strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)



Beautiful rockcress (*Arabis pulchra*)



Wild mint (*Mentha canadensis*)



American vetch (*Vicia americana*)

For more information and resources, check out this link:

