



Poison Hemlock,
Conium maculatum

Wild Parsnip,
Pastinaca sativa

- ✓ Both members of the Apiaceae, Carrot Family
- ✓ Both monocarpic (short lived perennials)
- ✓ Both start out as basal rosettes of foliage before flowering & going to seed
- ✓ Both have compound leaves
- ✓ Both easily spread by seed in late summer
- ✓ Both invade & modify disturbed open areas & habitat edges
- ✓ Infestations can spread into nearby high-quality natural areas, forming dense stands
- ✓ Both species can cause dermal reaction





Poison Hemlock, *Conium maculatum*

- ✓ Native to Europe, introduced as an ornamental / garden plant 🤔
- ✓ Noxious weed in Indiana
- ✓ 3-8 ft tall, stems hairless, hollow, light green with purple spots
- ✓ Fern-like leaves are hairless & 2-3 times compound, white flower umbels, early summer
- ✓ Toxic if ingested, can cause respiratory arrest and heart failure
- ✓ Contaminates livestock forage, degrades wildlife habitat & decreases land value



Non-native Look-a-likes to Poison Hemlock

- ✓ **Queen Ann's lace**, *Dauca carota* (aka wild carrot) hairy stems and grows 1-3 ft in height
- ✓ **Hedge parsley**, *Torilis sp.* (Japanese *T. japonica* & spreading, *T. arvensis*) have leaves 2-4 in long, slightly hairy, 1-4 ft in height and small, sparse flower clusters
- ✓ **Giant hogweed**, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, variable lobed leaves up to 5 ft across, stems with purple spots but coarse with white hairs at nodes, 10-15 ft tall, large umbrella shaped flowers clusters. Sap causes skin reaction to light, swelling, blistering, scarring. May cause temporary or permanent blindness upon eye contact.



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Wild Parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*

- ✓ Native to Eurasia, introduced to the US by early colonists in early 1600s as a food crop
- ✓ Up to 4 ft tall, stem is green, grooved, & smooth with sparse hairs
- ✓ Pinnately compound leaves, 2-5 pairs of leaflets with toothed margins
- ✓ Wide yellow flower umbels, mid-late summer
- ✓ Sap causes dermal reaction with exposure to sunlight, most extreme during flowering
- ✓ Contaminates forage, reducing weight gain and fertility in livestock



Look-a-likes to Wild Parsnip

- ✓ **Golden Alexanders**, *Zizia aurea* (native), grows 2 feet tall, blooms late spring to early summer, lacks a flower stalk on the central flower of each umbel, only 3 leaflets per leaf

Black swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio polyxenes*

- ✓ Uses a wide variety of plants in the Apiaceae as larval host



Poison Hemlock & Wild Parsnip Control

Manual / Mechanical

- ✓ Prevent direct exposure to plant sap!
- ✓ Cut the root 1" below ground or hand pull
- ✓ If in seed, cut & bag seed heads for disposal
- ✓ Annual mowing when plants 1st produce flowers BEFORE seed set to reduce seedbank and population size over time



Poison Hemlock & Wild Parsnip Control

Chemical

- ✓ Foliar application of glyphosate or triclopyr as spot treatments to basal rosettes
- ✓ Most effective to target treatment when plants are at basal rosette stage, before flowering



Other Resources

- ✓ SICIM & Purdue Extension, Poison Hemlock Factsheet - FNR-437-W:
<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-437-W.pdf>
- ✓ USDA Forest Service, Field Guide for Managing Poison Hemlock in the Southwest:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5410121.pdf
- ✓ US Fish & Wildlife Service, Don't touch these plants! Six lookalikes you want to avoid:
<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/PlantsToAvoid.html>
- ✓ Ohio State University, Poison Hemlock and Wild Parsnip are going to Seed in Southern Ohio: <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1321>
- ✓ New York Invasive Species Information: http://nyis.info/invasive_species



Photo credits

- ✓ Queen Ann's lace: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org
- ✓ Giant hogweed: Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org
- ✓ Cow parsnip: Alex Katovich, Bugwood.org
- ✓ Spotted water hemlock: Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
- ✓ Hemlock comparison: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org
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