



# POISON HEMLOCK

*Conium maculatum*

- Native to Europe
- Introduced to the US in the 1800's as an ornamental
- Considered an aggressive invasive
- Can survive in moist or dry soil conditions





# POISON HEMLOCK-DESCRIPTION

## *Conium maculatum*

- Biennial plant that reproduces by seed only
- Capable of completing its lifecycle as a winter annual in KY if it germinates early during the fall months
- Flowers in late May/June
- Parsley-like leaves, shiny, and triangular in appearance (almost fern-like)
- Hairless, hollow stems, some with purple spots, can grow upwards of 6-8 ft
- Mature flowers form a series of umbrella-shaped, white flowers at the end of each terminal stalk



# POISON HEMLOCK - TOXICITY

## *Conium maculatum*

- Toxic alkaloids in poison hemlock affect the nervous system, causing such symptoms as a burning sensation in the mouth, nausea, vomiting, confusion, rapid heartbeat, seizures, and paralysis.
- Death is by respiratory paralysis.
- No antidote.
- Touching plant can cause severe skin rash in some people.





Look likes *Queen Anne's lace* (wild carrot)

- Some things to look at:
  - Formation of flower head
  - Stem hairs / color
  - Leaves



Look's likes *yarrow*

- Some things to look at:
  - Color of flowers
  - Stem hairs
  - Leaves

# Look's likes *Water Hemlock*



Some things to look at:

- Leaves

# POISON HEMLOCK - CONTROLS

## *Conium maculatum*

- Cut or mowed plants will resprout.
- Cut plants have potential to release toxic fumes.
- Early glyphosate herbicide application effective.
- Herbicide application on mature plant less effective  
– seeds will still set.
- Burning can cause toxic fumes to be released.

Seek medical attention if you come in to contact with poison hemlock