



903 N. Black Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3265

POISON HEMLOCK MANAGEMENT TIPS

Poison hemlock, a member of the Parsley family, is a biennial forb with a taproot. The small, white flowers are grouped in umbrella-like clusters. The leaves are shiny green, triangular, highly dissected and fern-like. The foliage has a strong, musty odor. The stems are hollow and the lower portions of the stems have purple spots. Poison hemlock reproduces by seed only.

Seeds can remain viable for up to six years. The plant usually grows three to eight feet tall. Poison hemlock tends to grow in moist pastures and meadows where it has the potential to outcompete more desirable native species. It is toxic to all classes of livestock and humans and all plant parts are poisonous.



© Patrick J. Alexander



© Gary A. Monroe 2002



UGA1459207

Management and control efforts should focus on reducing seed production and must be planned for many consecutive years at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge.

Effective control measures for the management of poison hemlock include:

1. **Mechanical (digging):** Always wear gloves. Digging can be effective when there are small infestations. The root crown and the taproot must be removed to prevent the plant from re-growing. Always place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. Return to the area for several years to monitor for and remove any new plants.
2. **Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control poison hemlock. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides when plants are in the rosette stage up to the early bolting stage.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1/5 – 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Telar XP:	1/5 – 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Cimarron Plus:	1/4 – 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Opensight:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
DuraCor:	0.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
2,4-D Amine:	1 – 2 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1 - 2 oz herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP:	1 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
*Cimarron Plus:	1.25 – 2 oz herbicide per acre.
*Opensight:	2.5 – 3.3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2.5 – 3.3 oz herbicide per acre.
DuraCor:	12 oz herbicide per acre.
2,4-D Amine:	1 – 2 quarts herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

3. **Cultural (revegetation):** Promoting healthy plant communities and planting desirable plant species to compete with poison hemlock will reduce invasion potential.
4. **Biological (insects):** There are insects that feed on the flowers, leaves, buds, stems and immature seeds.
5. **Integrated management:** Management of poison hemlock is more effective when more than one strategy is used.