

## Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)



*Stems are marked with purple blotches*

An erect annual or biennial herb, up to 3m tall, hemlock is a common weed of roadsides and wasteland, particularly in urban areas. It is poisonous and has been linked to several deaths in New Zealand.

Hemlocks leaves are 50cm long, glossy green and fernlike, and carried on hollow hairless stems. The stems are marked with purple blotches. Hemlock has a long branched taproot. White flowers are formed in dense umbels on the ends of stems and followed by white or grey fruit in autumn.

Seeds are spread by water or on machinery, clothing or animal coats. It can also be spread along roadsides in gravel, soil and in topsoil.

Plants may be grubbed out, sprayed or treated with herbicide granules. Care must be taken if the plant is physically removed as grubbed out plants may become more palatable to stock.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**