

# Western waterhemlock

*Cicuta douglasii*

Parsley Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Leaves are alternate toothed and pinnately divided
- ❑ Stems grow 3-7' tall and are swollen at the base
- ❑ Flowers are white and in compound umbels
- ❑ Each flower has 2 seeds which are kidney shaped and tea-colored
- ❑ The plant is easily identified if the taproot is divided horizontally as it contains chambers full of juice but **BEWARE!** The juice is highly poisonous to animals and humans



All photos: Richard Old, www.xidservices.com

## Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant spreading by seed
- It is considered one of the most toxic plants in North America; has been mistaken for edible members of the parsley family and responsible for several deaths
- Western waterhemlock is a native of the intermountain region of the U.S.
- It is a wetland plant often growing on streams and irrigation canals as well



## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

*Biological* - No known biological control in our area

*Cultural* - Plant competitive grass or other cover crop

*Mechanical* - Care must be taken with any mechanical control especially cutting mowing or digging when the juice may be ingested

*Chemical* -The [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) lists MCPA or 2,4-D as chemical recommendations glyphosate or dicamba should also work well on this weed



Root chambers

*Where found* – Isolated pockets of this plant found in Stevens County, mostly in wet ditch areas.