



KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

- growth: Biennial herbaceous plant that grows up to 10 ft tall.
- flower: In early summer small, white flowers appear borne in umbrella-shaped clusters about 7.5 cm across.
- stems: Stems are stout, hollow, ridged and mottled with purple spots.
- leaves: Shiny green, 3-4 times pinnately compound and clasp the stem at the obvious nodes. Crushed foliage has a disagreeable odor.
- roots: It has a long thick tap root with a fleshy texture; up to 2 cm in diameter. Roots have a distinct odor similar to carrots or parsnips.
- fruit: Seeds are very small, 1/8 inch long, greyish green, ridged and flattened, with 2 seeds borne together.



Stems are very stout and plants grow large. Note purple spotting on stem.



Conium maculatum is poisonous
to both humans and livestock !!!

flower color

Elevation:
Up to 7000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
SW interior riparian, montane riparian & montane conifer forest.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

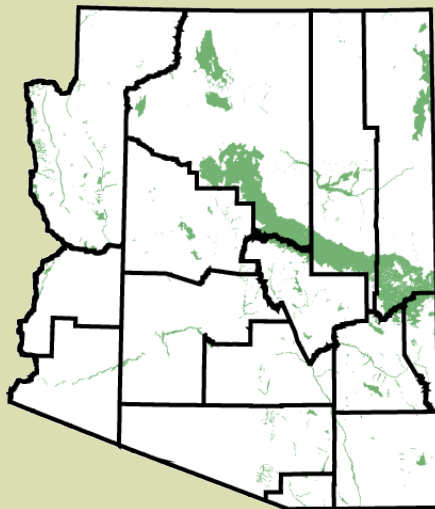
Commonly found along roadsides, field edges, railroad tracks, irrigation ditches, stream banks, and in waste areas. More competitive in wet soil conditions but can survive in dry sites.

May act as a pioneer species quickly colonizing disturbed sites and displacing natives during early successional series.

The presence of *C. maculatum* degrades habitat quality and could indicate a management problem on an ecological preserve.

Grows at low elevations targeting perennial crops and where moisture is adequate and disturbance is relatively frequent. Common below 5000 ft but has been found as high as 7000 ft near Flagstaff, AZ.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.



- Sometimes confused with water hemlock (cowbane); it can be distinguished by its leaves and taproot structure:
- * leaf veins of the poison hemlock run to the tips of the teeth; those of water hemlock run to notches between the teeth.
- * the fleshy underground taproot of poison hemlock is usually unbranched whereas water hemlock has several tubers branching off of the main root.