Conium maculatum
Poison Hemlock
Other common names:
deathly hemlock, carrot fern, poison parsley

Apiaceae, the parsley family
Category: CONTAINMENT

Diagnostic Characteristics

- Erect biennial; grows 6-9 feet tall
- Plants exist as basal rosette in its first year
- Leaves are alternate, with bases sheathing the stems
- Leaves are fern-like and finely innately divided
- Stems are purple-spotted or purple-streaked; smooth and hollow
- Flowers are small, white, and in umbrella-shaped clusters

Background

- Native to Europe; introduced as an ornamental
- Inhabits ditches, streams, rights-of-way, disturbed areas, and pastures; prefers poorly drained soils
- Reproduces by seed
- Contains highly toxic alkaloids that are poisonous to livestock and humans if ingested
- Handling plants can cause dermatitis in some individuals

Photo Credit:
J.M DiTomaso, Regents of the University of California
Poison Hemlock
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Present

No
Yes