

WATER HEMLOCK

Cicuta maculata

Located in swamps, swales and low thickets throughout the Division. Also known as Spotted Hemlock, Spotted Cowbane, Musquash Root, Beaver-Poison, Children's-Bane and others. DEADLY POISONOUS to taste.

A biennial herb arising from small fleshy tubers which resemble sweet potatoes. The stems are stout, erect, branching and marked with purple lines; 0.6 to 2.2 m high. Leaves 2 to 3 times divided (*Sium suave* is once divided), lower leaves with long stalks; leaflets narrowly lance-shaped, gradually narrowing to a point, thin with midribs and veins prominent beneath, margins sharply toothed. Flowering heads flat, 5 to 14 cm broad, composed of clusters of white flowers on the ends of stalks in umbrella fashion; blooming from June to September.

The seeds are eaten by mallards and other wildfowl.





Notes