

Poison Hemlock Identification

Seeds

Poison hemlock reproduces via seeds that fall close to the plant. The seeds are spread over a wide area by birds, water and wind. Most seeds fall from September to December and germinate in the fall. Its seeds look similar to those of anise, and its roots resemble parsnip roots.



Flowers

Beautiful lacelike white or yellowish flowers sit in umbrellalike clusters atop several flower stocks. The flowers look similar to the giant Queen Anne's lace plant.



Leaves

The leaves are similar to ferns, with leaflets divided into narrow sections. If leaves are crushed, they emit a rancid odor.



Stems

The stems can grow as tall as 10 feet. The stem is ribbed and hollow inside and has purple streaks and splotches on the outside.

