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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Poison Hemlock Continues to Spread

Over the past 10 plus years I have talked about Poison Hemlock and what a problem it has been on farms, around creeks, buildings, edges of fields, etc. The weed well established in Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky. If you drive anywhere in the area you will see patches of this weed. Trust me it will take little to no effort to locate it. Controlling this weed continues to be unimportant I guess. The weed is not easy to control, but it is not that difficult either. Mostly it is taking the time, or finding the time to treat the areas where it is YEAR AFTER YEAR. That is the reason I am harping on it again now. It is so easy to spot right now. Take notes or make a mental note of where it is because it will be there again in November when you can begin to control it with several herbicides as an option. Several products that control broadleaf plants will control it, including 2,4D which is not expensive to use. It will be green again by Thanksgiving and can be sprayed at that time or early spring in late March or April. Maybe Thanksgiving and Easter should be times of the year that you make that mental note to control this problem plant.

The following is from the University of Minnesota Extension. This points out many details about the plant and it appears that it is just starting to show up in Minnesota. You may be able to read the urgency that Minnesota Extension is expressing about controlling this plant, maybe we in Ohio are late to the game, but that just means we may need to be more aggressive in trying to catch up. If you can control your Poison Hemlock, you will need to express the importance to your neighbors, too. That would include neighbors like ODOT with State Highways, County Engineer with County Highways and Township Trustees. This weed is on the Ohio Noxious Weed list.

Now that spring has finally arrived, University of Minnesota Extension is asking people to be on the lookout for poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), but they'll need information before they take any action. As its name implies, the invasive plant is highly toxic — even fatal — to humans and animals.

“It’s especially important that people protect themselves if they come across it. Don’t even touch it with bare hands,” says Angela Gupta, Extension forestry educator. Worse would be if someone tried to harvest it, as could have happened last year when a gardener thought it was a large carrot plant. Fortunately, the gardener used Extension resources to make a positive identification.

“Extension and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) acted lightning fast last year when poison hemlock was found here,” says Gupta. “It’s already been placed on the Minnesota Noxious Weed Eradicate List.”

Because of a long-term collaboration between Extension and the MDA, poison hemlock got the attention it deserved and funds from the *Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund* for education and management.



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Extension and the MDA immediately focused on identification tools. An *Extension poison hemlock website* shows the plant, and compares it against common native and non-native look-alikes, including carrot. After the website launched, residents from across the state reported poison hemlock in 14 new counties. Most infestations are 20 or fewer plants and are being controlled by home and landowners.

After hearing poison hemlock was in their neighborhood, Extension Master Naturalist volunteers identified poison hemlock adjacent to a municipal compost pile. This facility makes compost and gives it to residents. Fortunately, the volunteers properly reported it and it was managed before it could have been introduced to home gardens. Trained Extension volunteers and other engaged Minnesotans will continue to be a major force in the response.

As poison hemlock emerges this spring, large, fern-like first-year rosettes will be visible. “Look for small purple spots on the stems, but don’t touch,” says Gupta. “May will be an important month to be vigilant.”

Poison hemlock, which is native to Europe and North Africa, requires considerable sunlight to flourish and is found often near railways, rivers, ditches, field edges, farms and bike paths. It is a biennial plant (having a two-year life cycle), and is unlikely to grow in very shady areas or places that are frequently mowed.

Know Before You Haul

In a couple of weeks there is an upcoming meeting that might have some interest to farmers who haul livestock as part of the farming operation. This is a free informational meeting that will be sponsored by Cherry Fork Farm Supply and Adams County Horseman’s Association. The meeting will be held at the Adams County Fairgrounds in West Union on June 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Douglass from the Ohio Public Utilities Commission. He will answer questions about laws, enforcement, what to expect in a vehicle inspection, and if you need CDLs and ELDs to legally haul livestock.

The only request is that you RSVP if you plan to attend. You can call or email to let them know you plan to attend or if you have questions. The number to call is 937-798-1209 or you can email to timberhollowstables@yahoo.com or quiverheart@yahoo.com

Dates to Remember

July 9 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register at 800-282-1955 or <http://pested.osu.edu>