Plant: Poison hemlock (Conium maculatum)

**Identification:** One of the most toxic plants in Idaho, Poison hemlock is a biennial that can grow up to 12 feet tall. It has fern like leaves, which sprout very early spring before the stock shoots up. This plant has white flowers at the top, not to be mistaken for wild carrot or wild parsley. It is in the carrot family, but is extremely toxic to humans and animals. It has hollow stems that are mottled with purple spots. Poison hemlock is usually found in riparian habitats, such as along creeks, rivers, canals, or other places with a good water source. Seeds usually fall within 3 yards of parent plant, but can travel far in water.

**Defense:** There are biological control insects that have been released in Twin Falls County on Poison hemlock. Mechanical removal can be effective on early establishments, but be sure to wear proper PPE when handling this plant such as nitrile gloves etc. Due to its habitat and general location near water, please contact your County Weed Superintendent for a management plan.

Always read and understand the label of any pesticide you are using, especially the restrictions. The label IS the law.

