



Information on Hemlock - how to tell it apart from other common plants

Hemlock is Class B noxious weed. Eating even a small amount of any part of this plant can kill people, livestock, and wildlife



Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is similar to Bishop's weed (*Ammi majus*), coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*), water parsnip (*Berula erecta*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), water dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*) and celery (*Apium graveolens*). These species can be distinguished by the following differences:

Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) has purplish spotted stems and gives off a strong smell when its leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of several (6-20) smaller clusters of tiny flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are white and their incurved petals are roughly all the same size. It produces slightly elongated (i.e. ovoid or ellipsoid) fruit that are prominently ribbed.

Bishop's weed (*Ammi majus*) does not have spotted stems and does not give off a strong smell when its leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of numerous (20-40) smaller clusters of tiny flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are white and their petals are roughly all the same size. It produces slightly elongated (i.e. ovoid or ellipsoid) fruit that are prominently ribbed.

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) does not have spotted stems and gives off a strong smell when its leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of a few (3-8) smaller clusters of flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are either pale pink, mauve or white and their petals vary in size (i.e. the outwards facing petals of the outer flowers of each small cluster are much larger). It produces almost rounded (i.e. sub-globular) fruit that are only slightly ribbed.

Water parsnip (*Berula erecta*) does not have spotted stems and does not give off a strong smell when its leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of several to numerous (6-30) smaller clusters of tiny flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are white and their petals are roughly all the same size. It produces slightly elongated (i.e. ovoid or ellipsoid) fruit that are prominently ribbed.

Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) does not have spotted stems and does not give off a strong smell when its leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of numerous (30-60) smaller clusters of flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are mostly white, however the central flower of each cluster is pink, red or purplish, and their petals vary in size (i.e. the outwards facing petals of the outer flowers of each small cluster are often much larger). It produces slightly elongated (i.e. ovoid or ellipsoid) ribbed fruit that are covered with bristles.

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) does not have spotted stems and gives off a strong smell when its very finely divided leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of several to numerous (8-30) smaller clusters of tiny flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are yellow and their petals are roughly all the same size. It produces slightly elongated (i.e. ovoid or oblong) fruit that are prominently ribbed.

Water dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*) does not have spotted stems and does not give off a strong smell when its leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of several (6-12) smaller smaller clusters of tiny flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are white and their petals vary in size (i.e. the outwards facing petals of the outer flowers of each small cluster are somewhat larger). It produces slightly elongated (i.e. ovoid or ellipsoid) fruit that are prominently ribbed.

Celery (*Apium graveolens*) does not have spotted stems and gives off a strong smell when its leaves are crushed. Its large compound flower clusters are made up of few to several (4-16) smaller clusters of tiny flowers (i.e. the inflorescence is a compound umbel). These flowers are white and their petals are roughly all the same size. It produces almost rounded (i.e. sub-globular) or slightly elongated (broadly ovoid) fruit that are only slightly ribbed.

Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is also relatively similar to the elderberries (*Sambucus* spp.). However the elderberries (*Sambucus* spp.) do not have spotted stems and their fruit are berry-like (i.e. drupes).