



Utah County Public Works Weed Control Standard Procedure for Poison Hemlock Treatment

1. Herbicide Treatment.

- a. Poison hemlock is a biennial plant; from seed to rosette in the first year of life to bolting, flowering, and developing/spreading seeds the second year of life ending its life cycle. Herbicide treatment should take place from rosette to flowering stage of life.
- b. Herbicide treatments can be made with:
 - i. Glyphosate—Non-selective herbicide.
 - ii. 2,4-D—Selective herbicide. Kills broadleaf plants but not grasses, if used according to label directions.
 - iii. Metsulfuron Methyl—Selective herbicide. Kills broadleaf plants, but not grasses, if used according to label directions. Utah County Weed Control preferred choice of herbicide for spraying poison hemlock.
 - iv. There are various other herbicides that can be used to treat poison hemlock, but are not used by Utah County Weed Control.
- c. Read chosen herbicide label for application rate. Some herbicide labels have specific instructions for poison hemlock.
- d. A surfactant is recommended to be added to the herbicide spray mixture.
- e. After herbicide application, allow the area treated to sit undisturbed for a minimum of two weeks.

Note: The information contained herein represents the standard procedures only for treatment of noxious weeds for Utah County. Utah County does not warrant the procedures contained herein. All legal responsibility for herbicide application is the responsibility of the applicator. If you apply an herbicide, make sure you are not violating any laws and/or restriction specified on the label. If applications are in or around water, verify the herbicide carries an aquatic label. If you have any questions regarding treatment of noxious weeds, please contact your local county public works office or Utah State University Extension office.

2. Additional or Alternative Treatments

- a. Mowing/cutting
 - i. Good alternative to herbicide treatment
 - ii. Mow/cut plants before flowers develop into mature seed heads
 - iii. Small areas can be addressed by use of line trimmer
- b. Hand pulling
 - i. Avoid any skin contact by wearing proper personal protective equipment (i.e. long sleeve shirt, gloves)
 - ii. Great for small infestations
 - iii. Pull plant before flower develops into mature seed head
 - iv. When pulling, try to pull as much of root system as possible; root system remaining may later grow into full size plant.
 - v. Rosettes can be removed with use of shovel
- c. Cultivation



- i. Disturbing the soil through agricultural practices like tilling or disc work will kill rosettes and prevent plants from maturing
- ii. Disturbance and moving of soil has potential of spreading noxious weed seeds.
- d. Biological Control Agents
 - i. Biological agents for poison hemlock in Utah:
 1. *Agonopterix alstromeriana* (defoliating moth)

Note: An intergraded control effort of more than one treatment type is recommended for poison hemlock control. While biological control is a great tool to combat an infestation, Utah County advises that, if possible, biological control agents be used as an additional tool to help with control efforts of an infestation rather than being the primary or only treatment.

3. Repeat Control Efforts

Complete control is not expected in one year's time. For control/eradication of an infestation, it may take years of consecutive monitoring and treatments. In general, you should have a decrease of Poison Hemlock every year of treatment and over time you might accomplish your goal.

